Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.1 APR.
$1.50
SEGA®
BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT-- FROM THE PAGES OF SONIC!
KNUCKLES
The Dark Legion
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
46971
#1 OF A THREE ISSUE MINI-SERIES
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
TAYLOR • PEPOY • BOLLERS

KNUCKLES™

The Dark Legion

Ken Penders and Kent Taylor
Writers

Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy
Artists

Karl Bollers
Color Artist

Jeff Powell
Letterer

J. Freddy Gabrie
Editor

Victor Gorelick
Managing Editor

Richard Goldwater
Editor-In-Chief

BEGINNING RIGHT WHERE
THE LAST MINI-SERIES LEFT OFF...

THE LESSONS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HANDED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. NOT ONLY DO THESE ACTIONS OFTEN PRESERVE A PROUD HERITAGE AND TRADITION, BUT THEY SOMETIMES ALLOW THE YOUNG TO GAIN WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE FROM THEIR ELDERS, IN THE HOPES OF IMPROVING THAT WHICH CAME BEFORE.

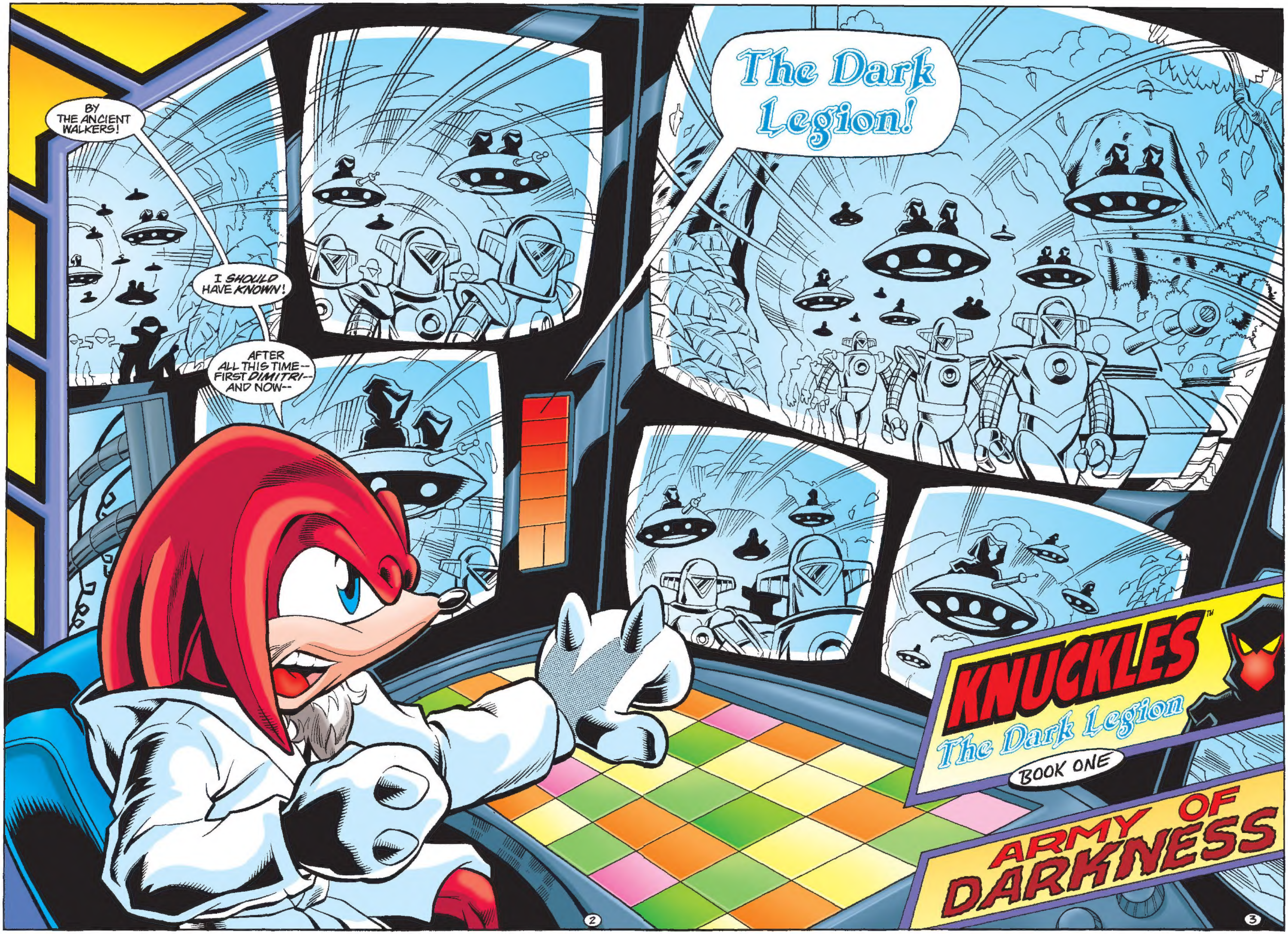
WHILE MANY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CHRONICLE THEIR YESTERDAYS IN A MANNER FAVORABLE TO THEM, TRUE HISTORIANS FIND IT IS OFTEN BEST TO LIKEN HISTORY TO A PRISM, AN OBJECT WITH NUMEROUS POINTS OF VIEW, IN ORDER TO SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE.

AS WITH ANYTHING ELSE, THE INSIGHT THAT IS OBTAINED FROM THOSE LESSONS ARE AT BEST ASSIMILATED A BIT AT A TIME. WITH EACH NEW PIECE COMES A GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS-- AND IT IS NO DIFFERENT WITH KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA. THANKFULLY, IN HIS EARLY STAGE OF LEARNING, HE HAS BECOME AWARE OF HOW LITTLE HE TRULY KNOWS, AND HOW MUCH MORE HE HAS YET TO MASTER.

SINCE HIS ENCOUNTER WITH A MALEVOLENT ANCESTOR CALLING HIMSELF ENERJAK, KNUCKLES HAS SOUGHT TO LEARN MORE OF HIS HERITAGE IN ORDER TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HIS PRESENT LIFE... AND BE BETTER PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE...

WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE CURRENT GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND CAN GROW, IT IS EQUALLY TRUE THAT OFTENTIMES, EVEN THE BEST OF US CAN NEVER BE COMPLETELY PREPARED...

BREEEP
BREEEP
BREEEP
BREEEP
BREEEP
IN A HIDDEN COMPLEX, INSIDE THE FLOATING ISLAND'S FORBIDDEN ZONE...
SWOOSH
ALARM OFF! ACTIVATE MONITORS!
SENSOR READINGS ARE OFF THE CHARTS!
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT DIMITRI--
PATIENCE, BROTHER, PATIENCE!
JUST BE READY FOR ANYTHING!


BY THE ANCIENT WALKERS!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
AFTER ALL THIS TIME-- FIRST DIMITRI-- AND NOW--
The Dark Legion!
KNUCKLES™
The Dark Legion
BOOK ONE
ARMY OF DARKNESS
2
3

IF I *ACT* NOW--

I MAY YET BE ABLE TO *WARN ARCHIMEDES* AND MY *SON*!

THIS IS THE LIFE--

THE GREAT OUTDOORS--NO *OMNIPOTENT* RELATIVES--NO *OBNOXIOUS* HEDGEHOGS--

*HE MEANS THE VILLAIN ENERJAK.

*EH? WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ARCHY?

I HAVE A *BAD* FEELING, KNUCKLES!

SOMETHING'S *NOT* RIGHT!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THINGS COULDN'T BE *BETTER*!

HOW CAN I CONVINCE HIM *WITHOUT* TELLING THE WHOLE *TRUTH*--

--THAT HIS FATHER AND I SHARE A *TELEPATHIC* LINK--

--AND I'VE RECEIVED A MENTAL MESSAGE OF *GRAVE* DANGER?

*HOLD IT!

WHAT'S THAT *SOUND*?

THE PAST:

--TRAIN THIS DEVICE UPON THEM--

--GRADUALLY ABSORBING THEIR ENERGIES--

--UNTIL ECHIDNAOPOLIS IS ONCE AGAIN JOINED WITH THE LAND!

OUR DADS ARE SOMETHING ELSE!

I'LL SAY!

DAD WAS TELLING ME THE COUNCIL HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO APPROVE THEIR PLAN!

THIS COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO DENY THE PETITION!

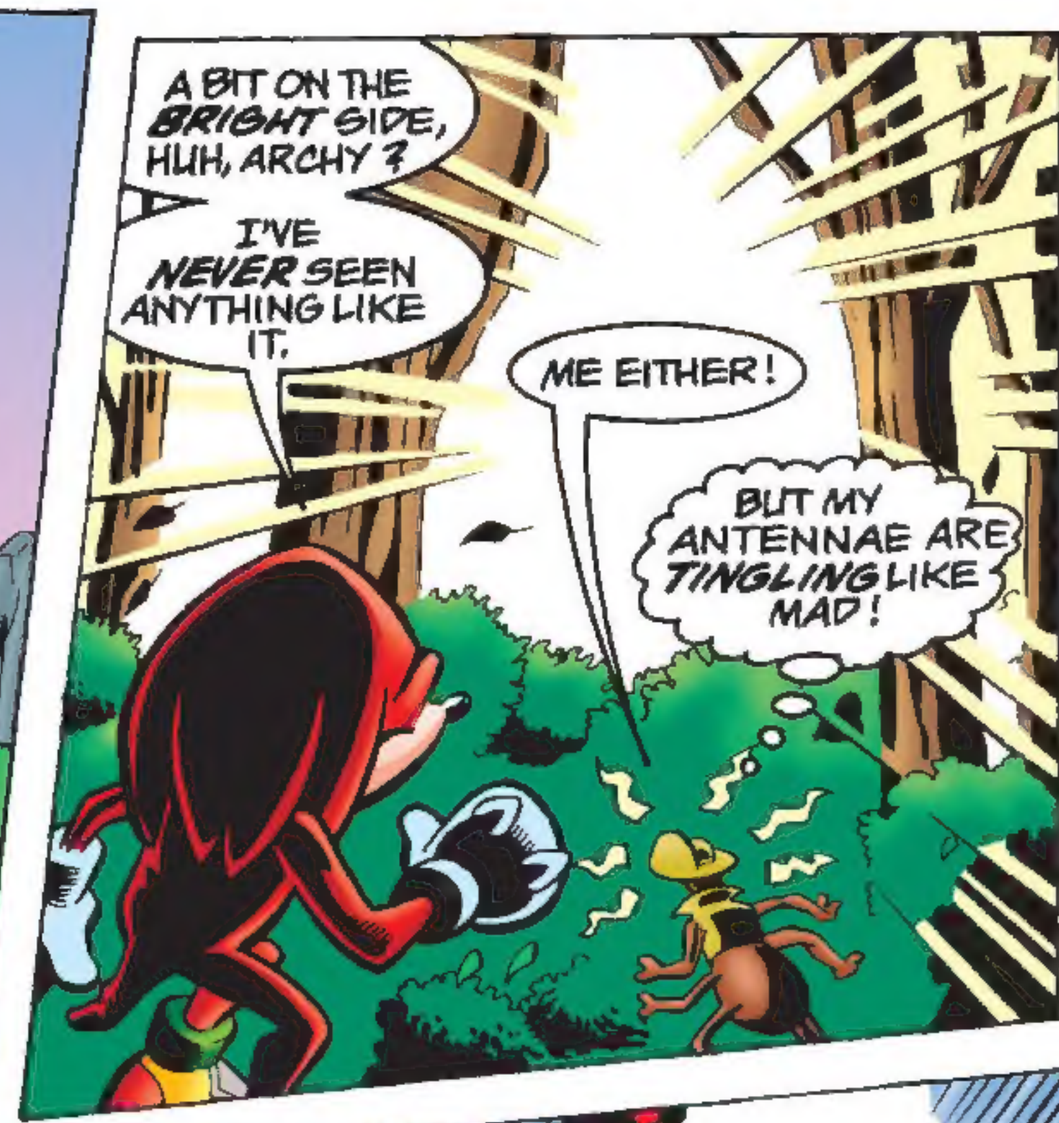
HUH?

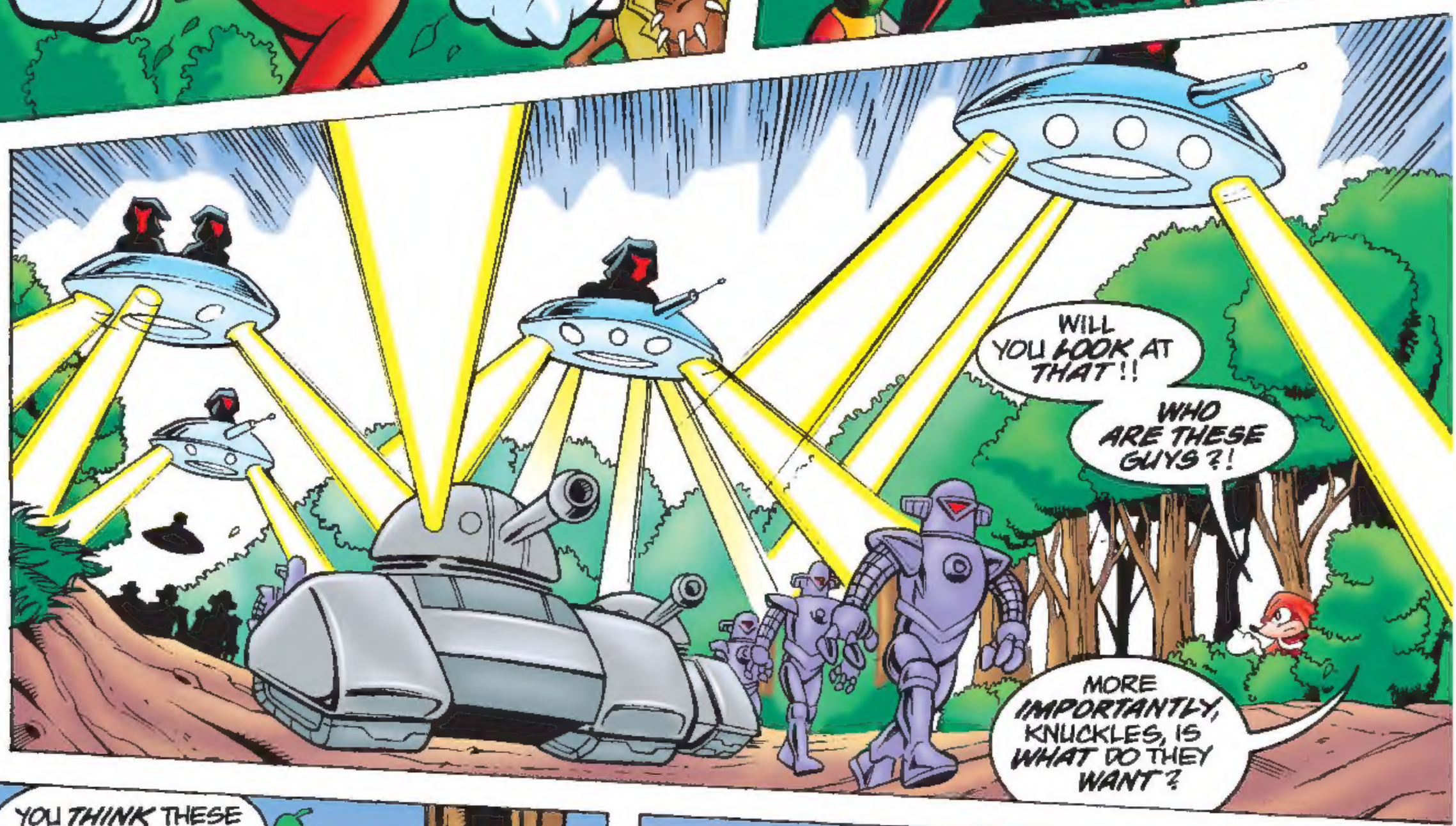
WEAK-WILLED FOOLS!

YOU'LL BE SORRY--

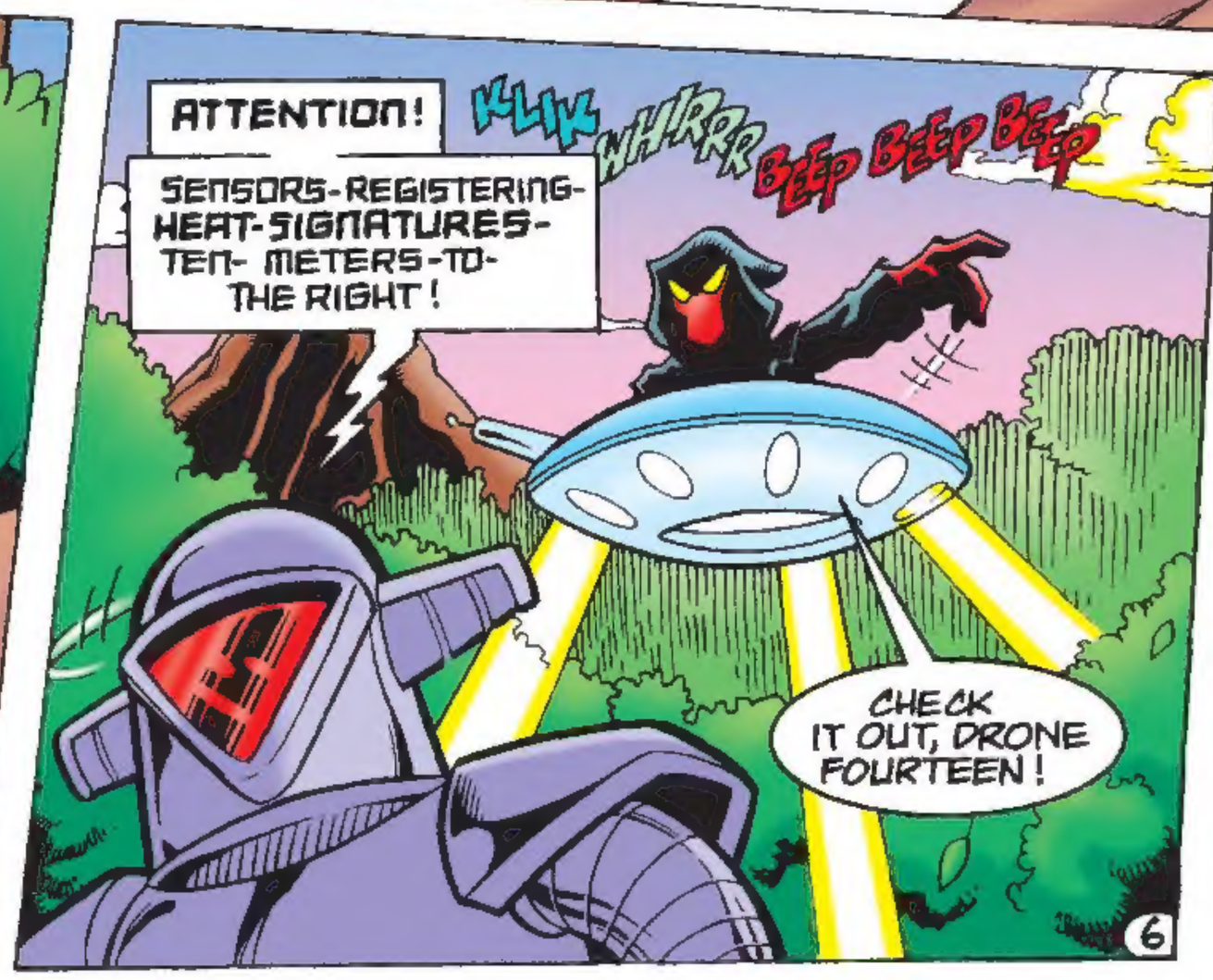
OH, DAD!

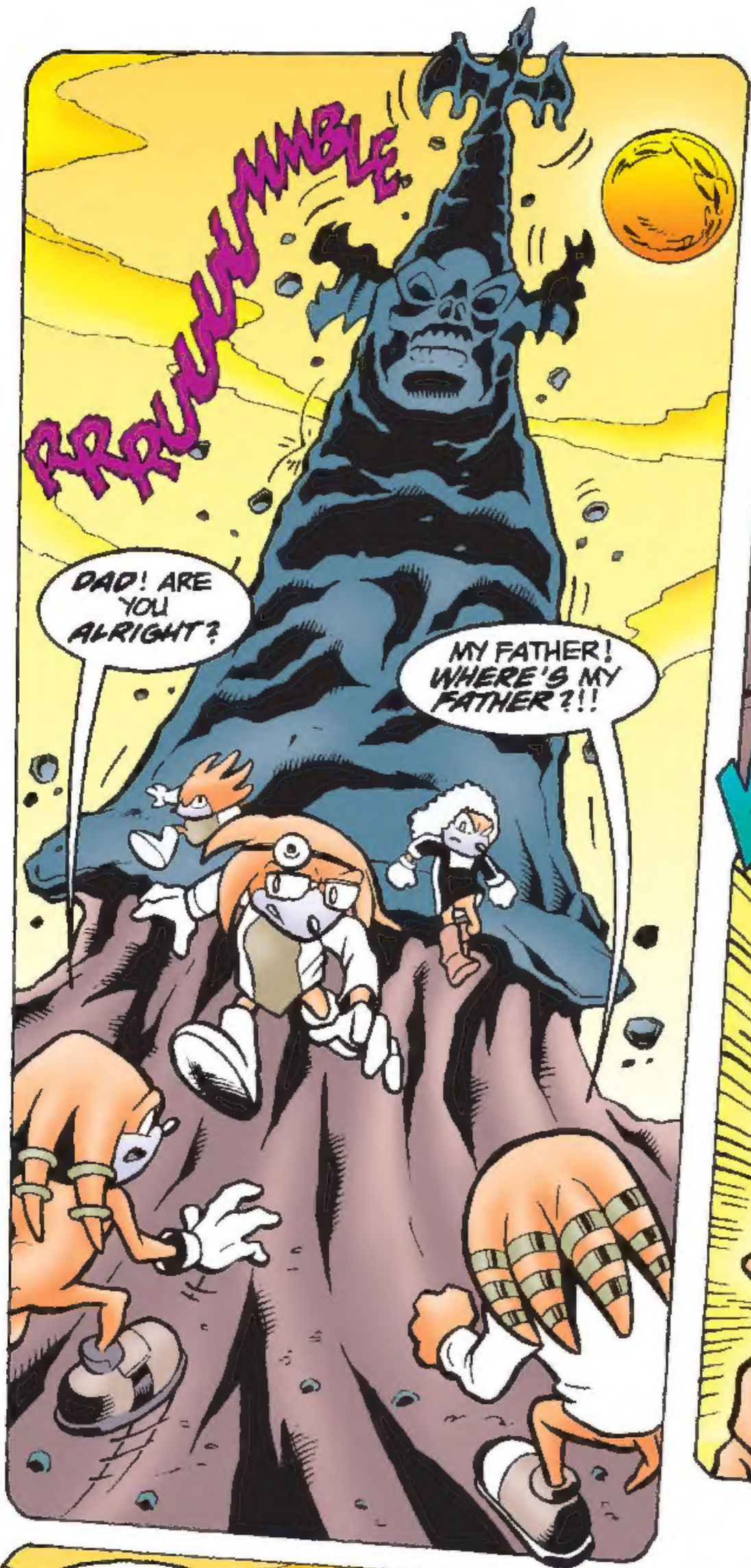
THIS WAY! IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE!
THE LAD IS A SHARP ONE!
HIS SENSE OF HEARING IS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT!


A BIT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, HUH, ARCHY?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
ME EITHER!
BUT MY ANTENNAE ARE TINGLING LIKE MAD!

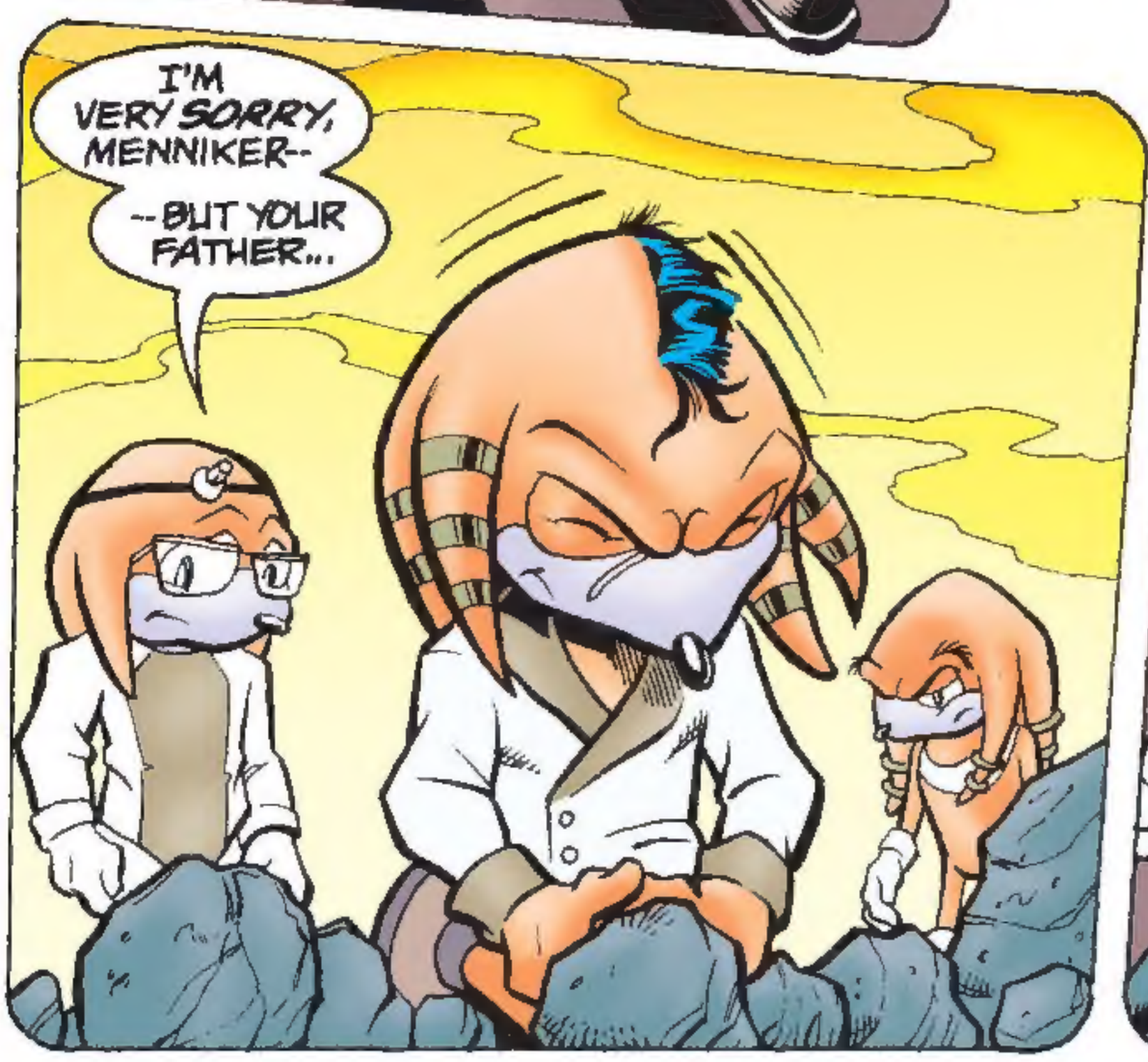

WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!!
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, KNUCKLES, IS WHAT DO THEY WANT?

YOU THINK THESE MUGS ARE UP TO NO GOOD?
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT YOU, KNUCKLES--
--YOUR ABILITY TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AT HAND!


ATTENTION!
KLIK
WHIRRR
BEEP BEEP BEEP
SENSORS-REGISTERING-HEAT-SIGNATURES-TEN- METERS-TO-THE RIGHT!
CHECK IT OUT, DRONE FOURTEEN!

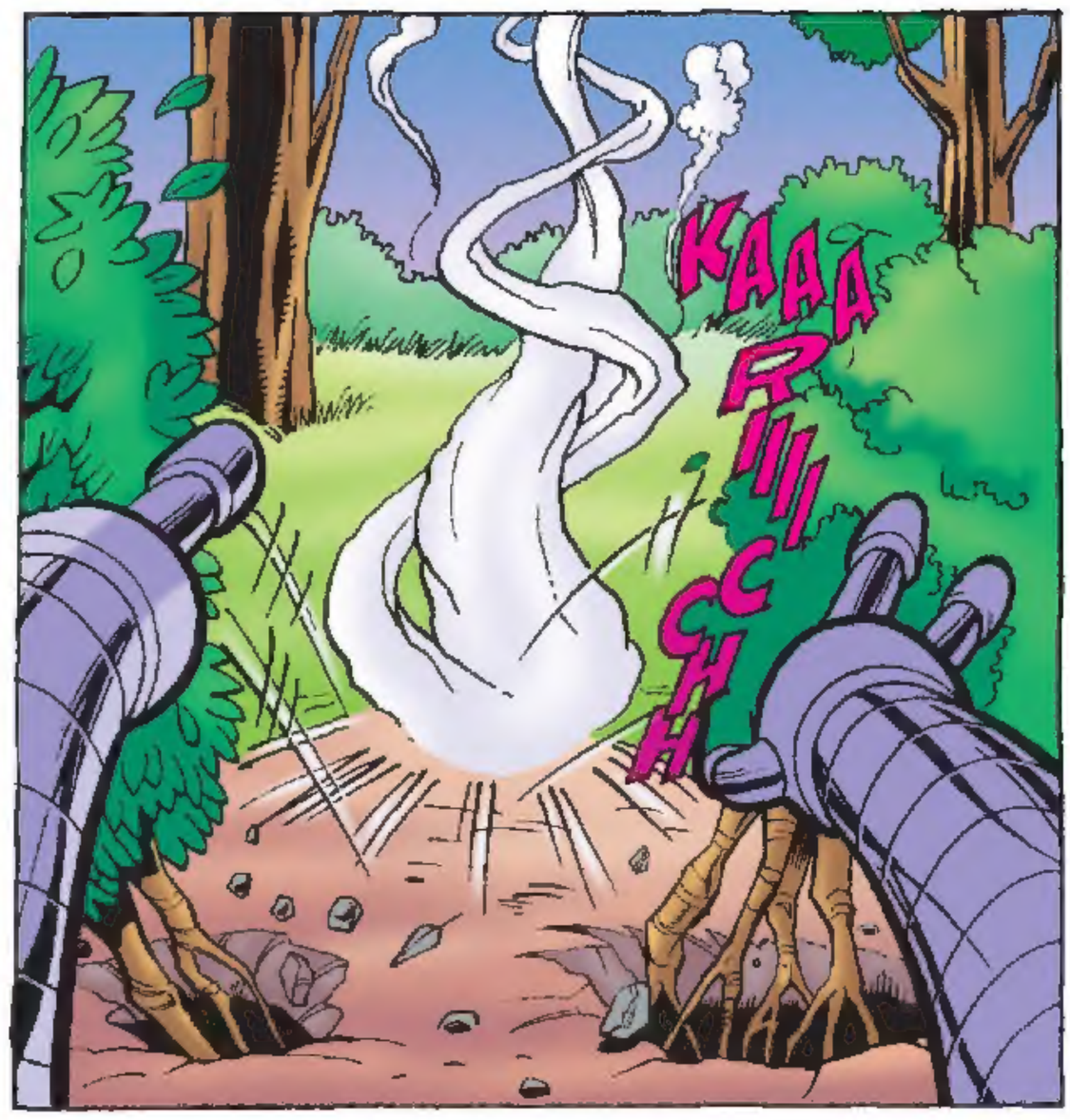

RRRUMMBLE
DAD! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
MY FATHER! WHERE'S MY FATHER?!!

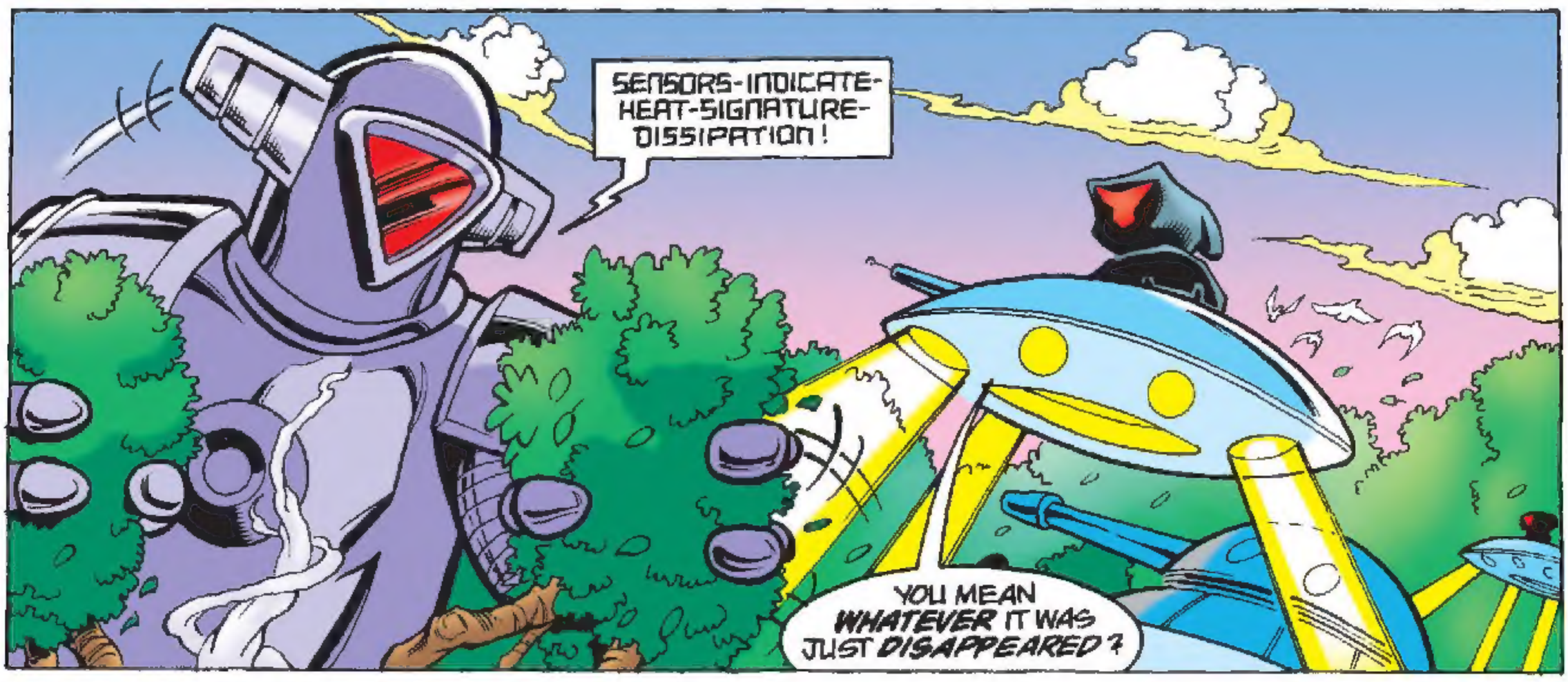
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
NO, LAD! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
KER-RRAAAASH!
BUT MY FATHER--!

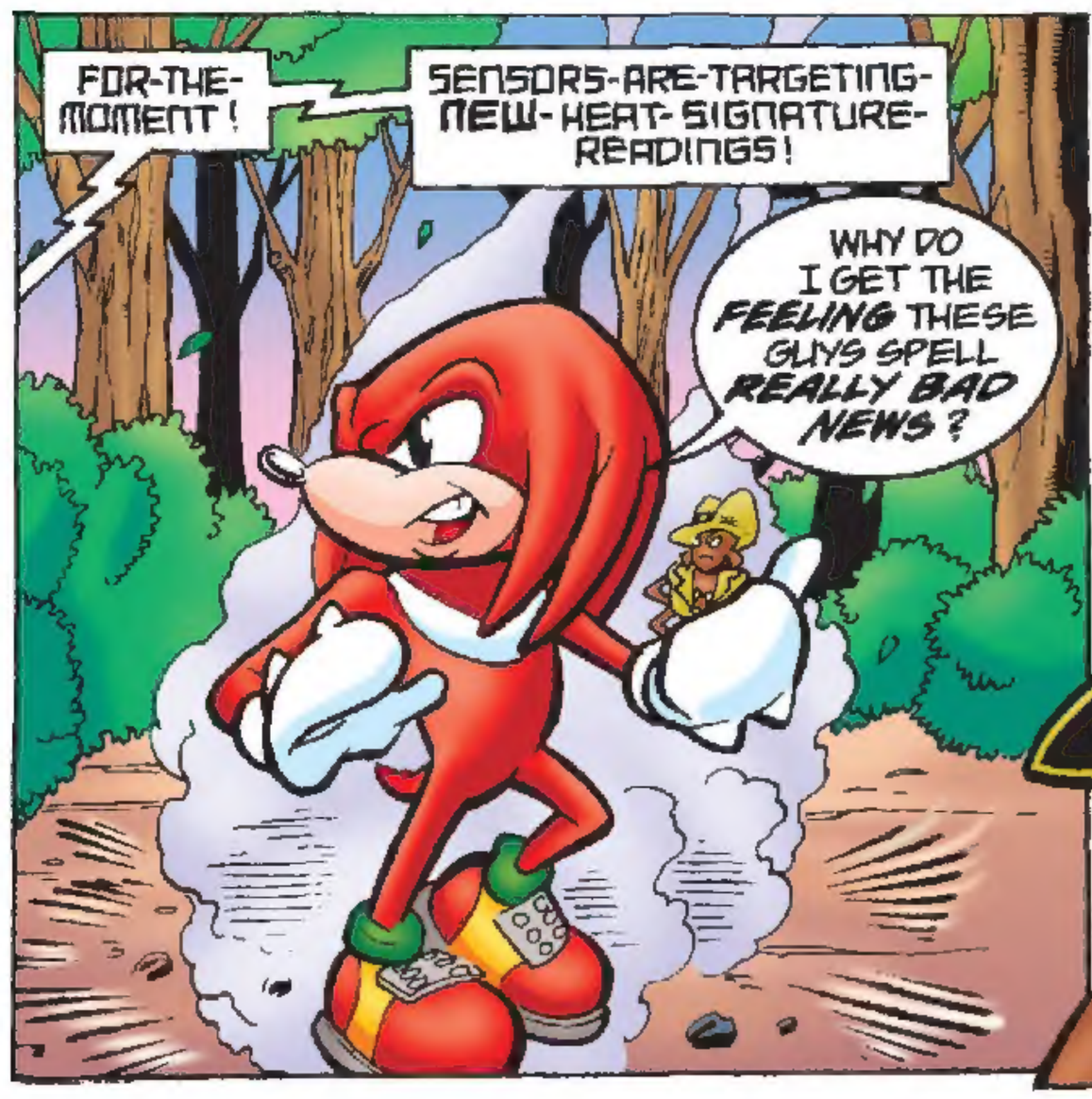

I'M VERY SORRY, MENNIKER--
--BUT YOUR FATHER...

COME, BOYS.
IT'S TIME WE WENT HOME.
GO TO THE ANT, THOU SLUGGARD, CONSIDER HIS WAYS AND BE WISE.

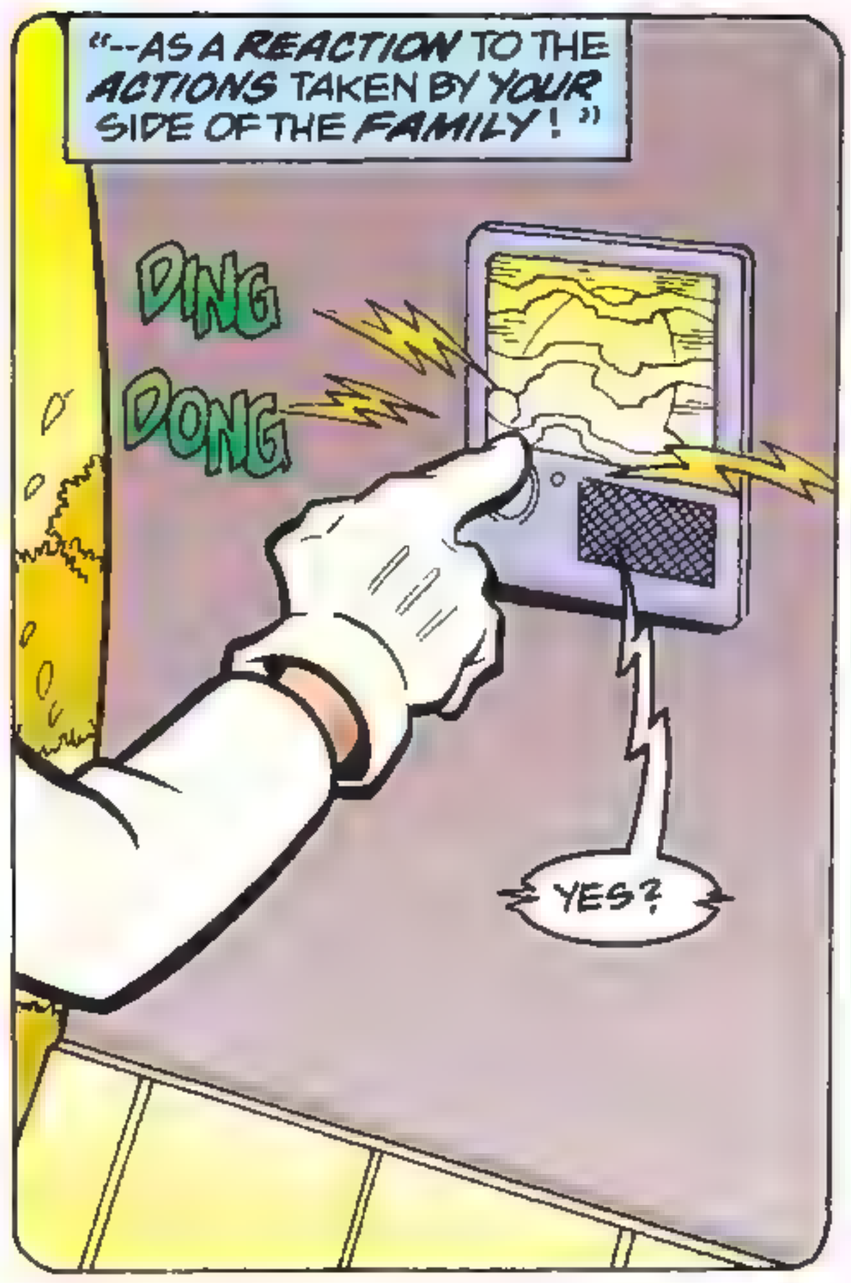
GOT ANY IDEAS, ARCHY?
HE'S GOING TO FIND US--
--AND THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM--EVEN FOR ME--TO SCRAP WITH!


KAAA RRIIICCHH

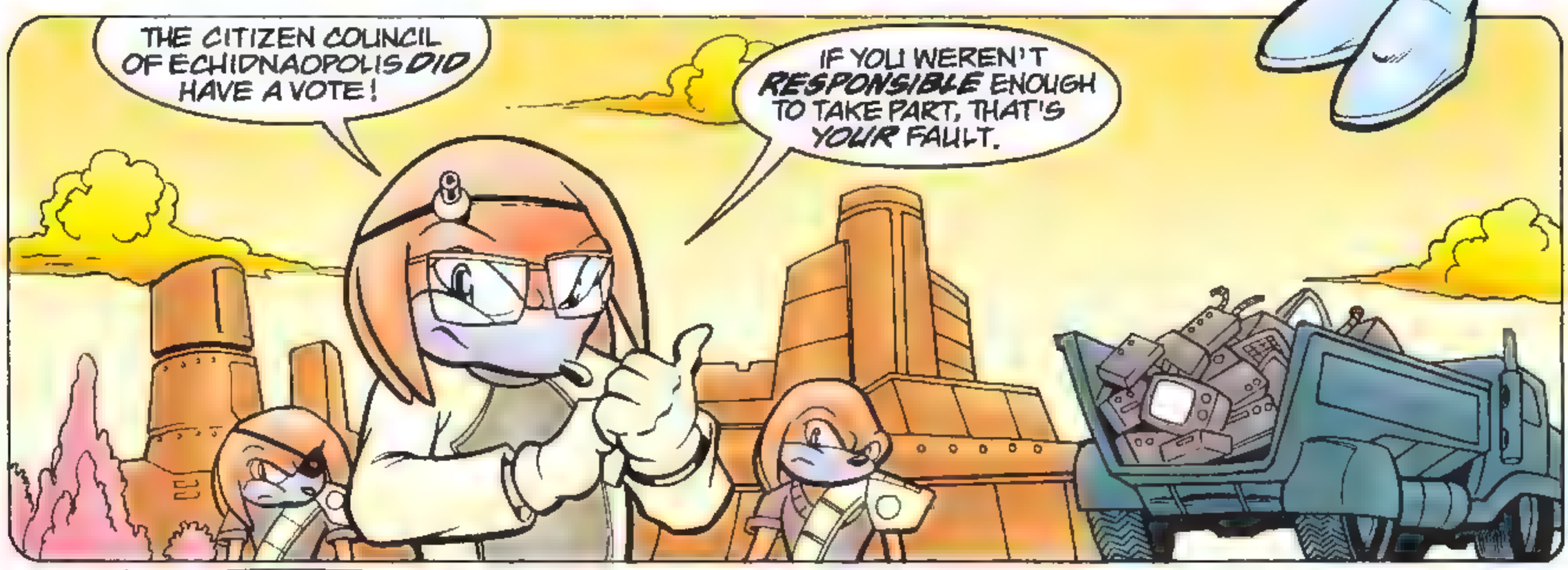

SENSORS-INDICATE-HEAT-SIGNATURE-DISSIPATION!
YOU MEAN WHATEVER IT WAS JUST DISAPPEARED?

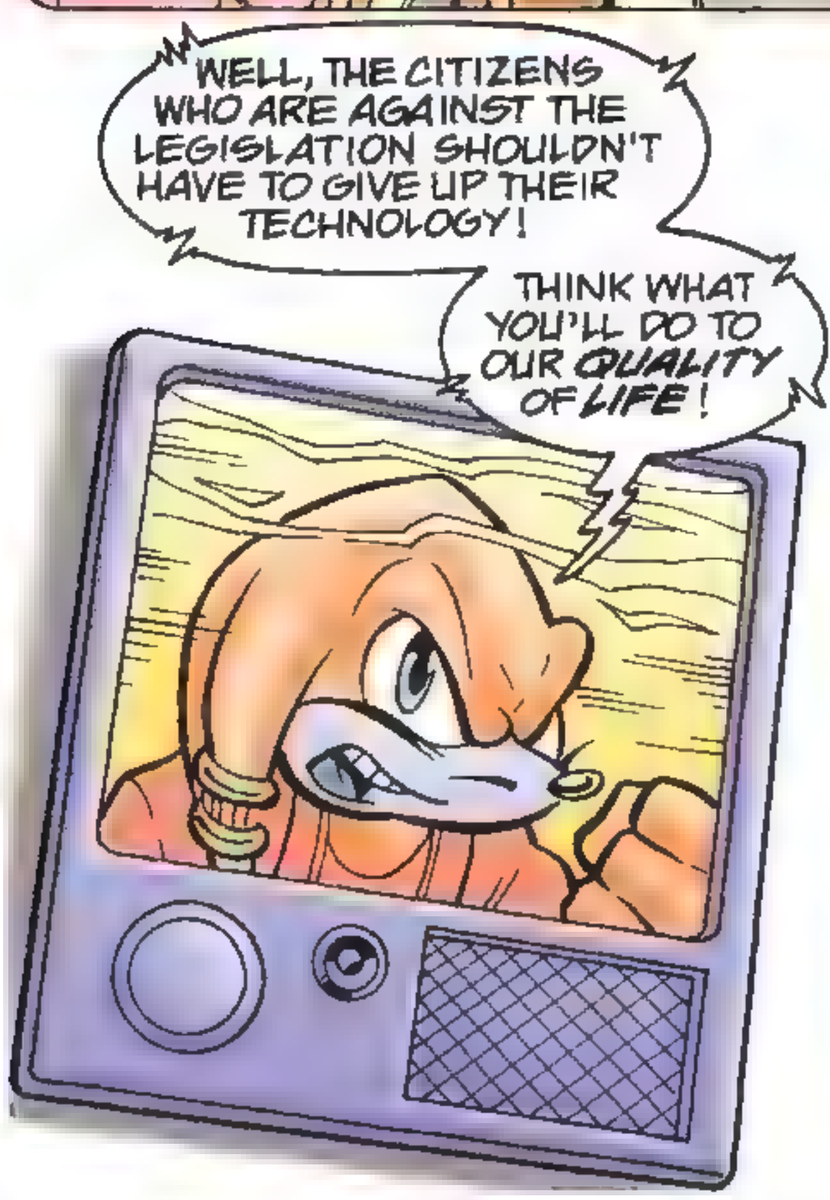

FOR-THE-MOMENT!
SENSORS-ARE-TARGETING-NEW-HEAT-SIGNATURE-READINGS!
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THESE GUYS SPELL REALLY BAD NEWS?

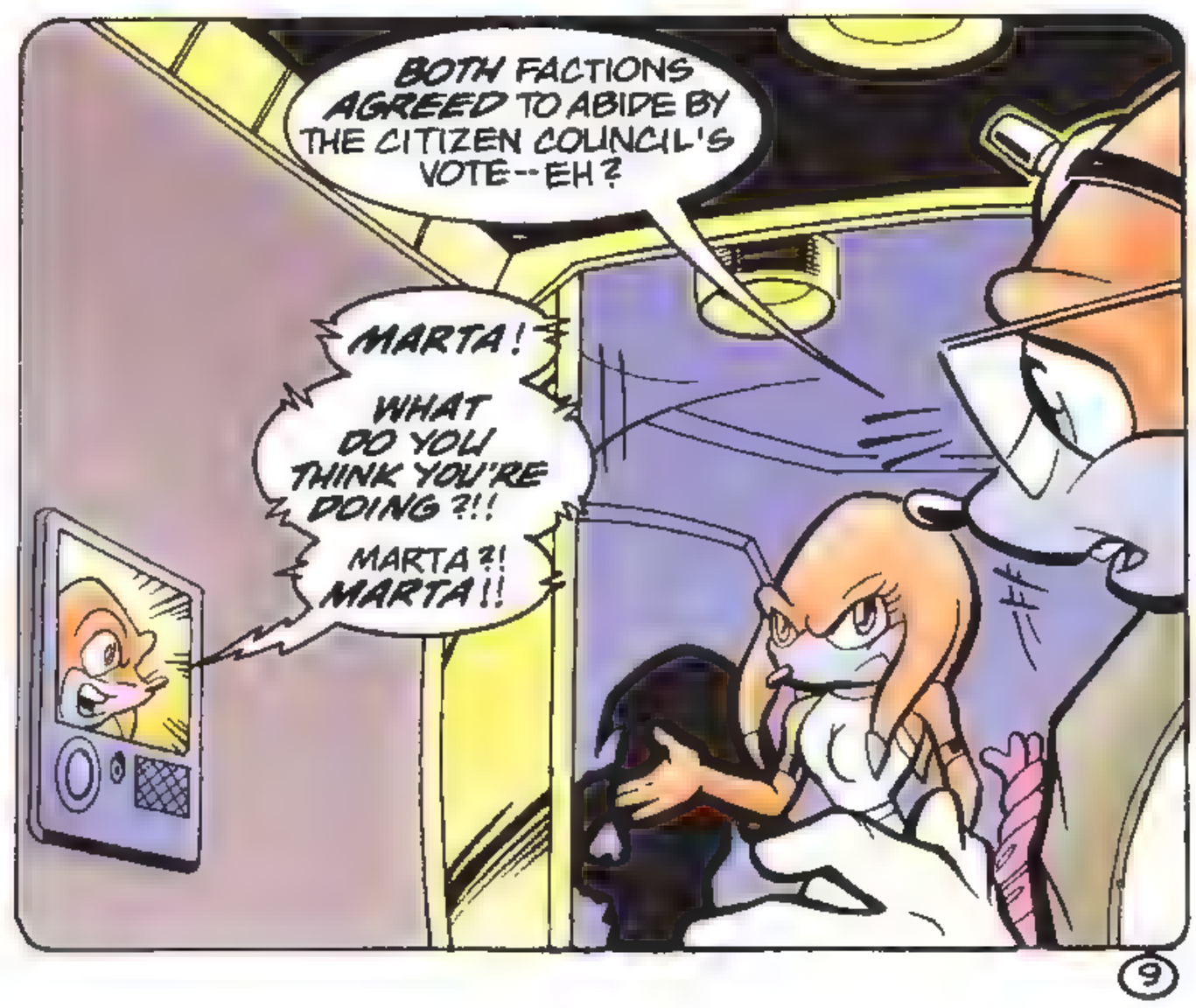
OH, I DON'T KNOW!
COULD BE BECAUSE THEY MAKE AN IMPOSING FIRST IMPRESSION, PERHAPS?
HALL OF SCIENCE
LIKE THEY DID ALMOST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS--

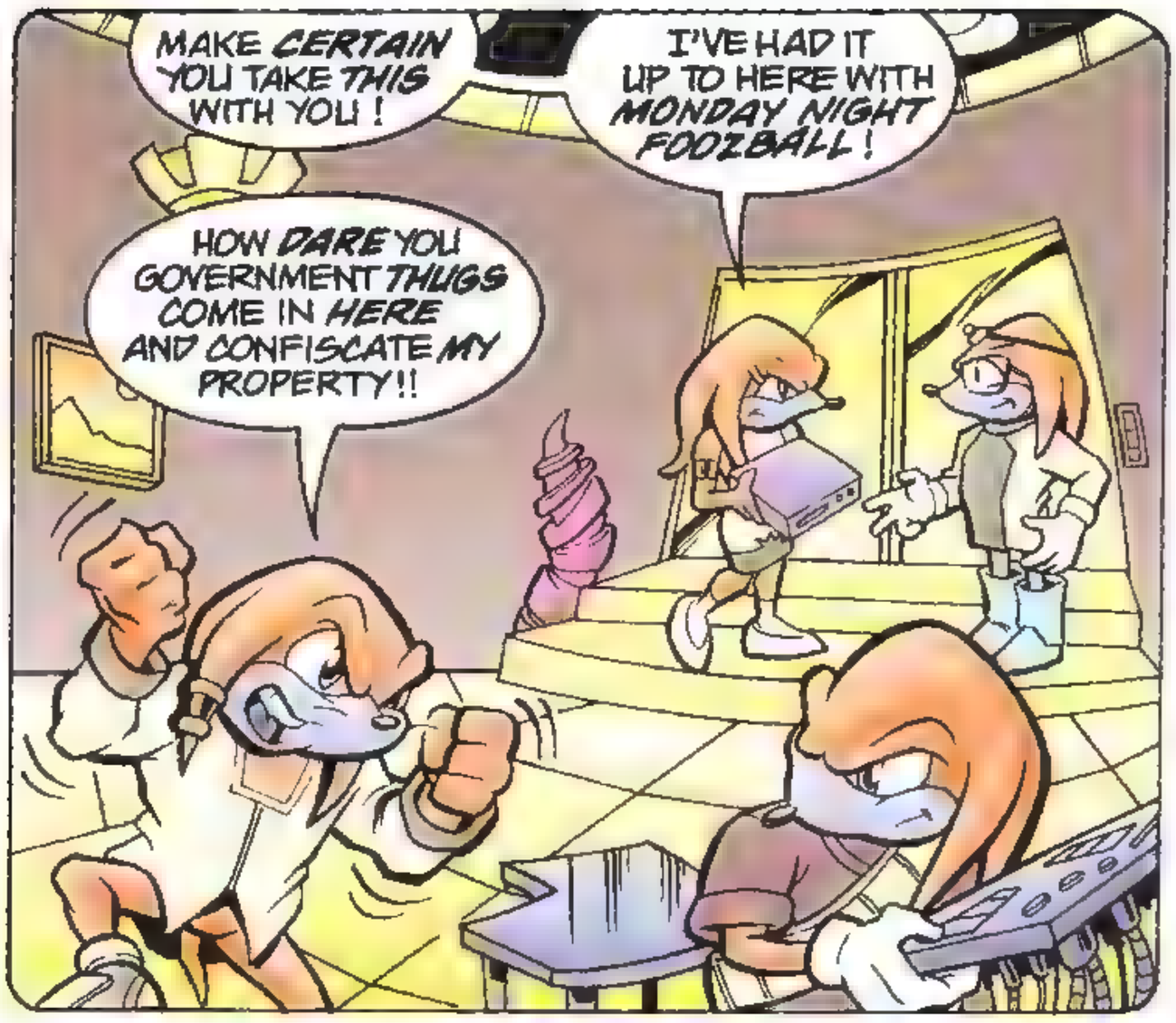

"--AS A REACTION TO THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY!"
DING
DONG
YES?

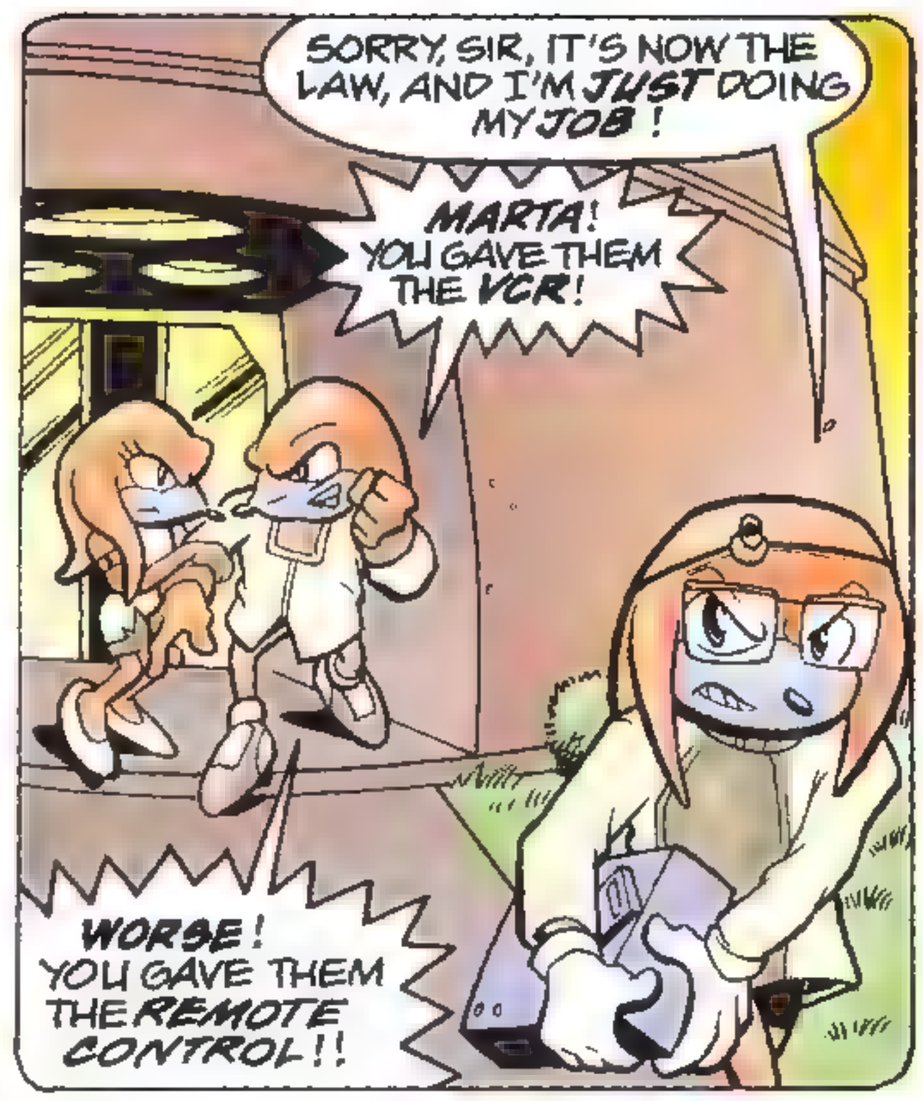
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THIS IS REGARDING THE MATTER STATED IN THE LETTER YOU RECEIVED, CITIZEN!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! THERE SHOULD BE A VOTE ON THIS!
WELCOM

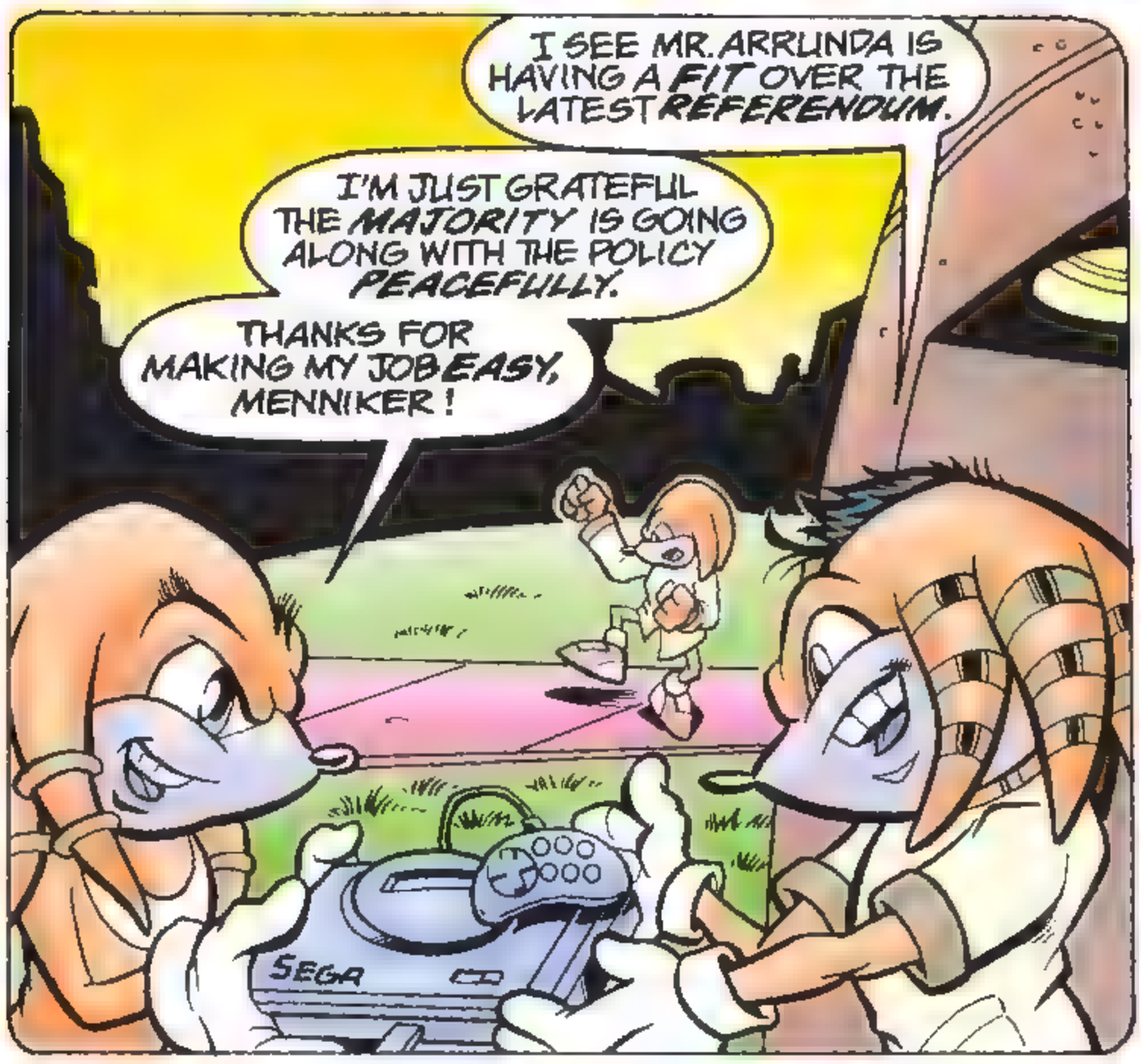

THE CITIZEN COUNCIL OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS DID HAVE A VOTE!
IF YOU WEREN'T RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO TAKE PART, THAT'S YOUR FAULT.


WELL, THE CITIZENS WHO ARE AGAINST THE LEGISLATION SHOULDN'T HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR TECHNOLOGY!
THINK WHAT YOU'LL DO TO OUR QUALITY OF LIFE!

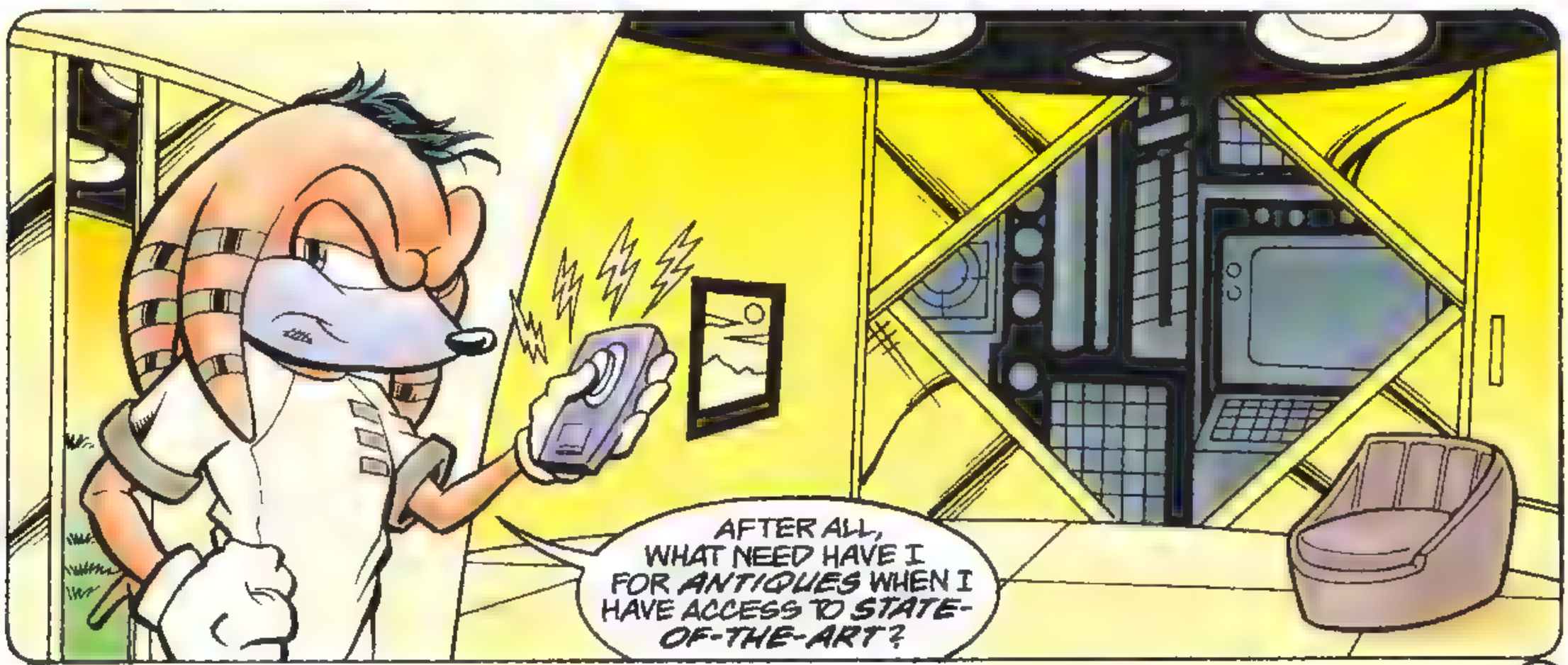

BOTH FACTIONS AGREED TO ABIDE BY THE CITIZEN COUNCIL'S VOTE--EH?
MARTA!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!!
MARTA?! MARTA!!

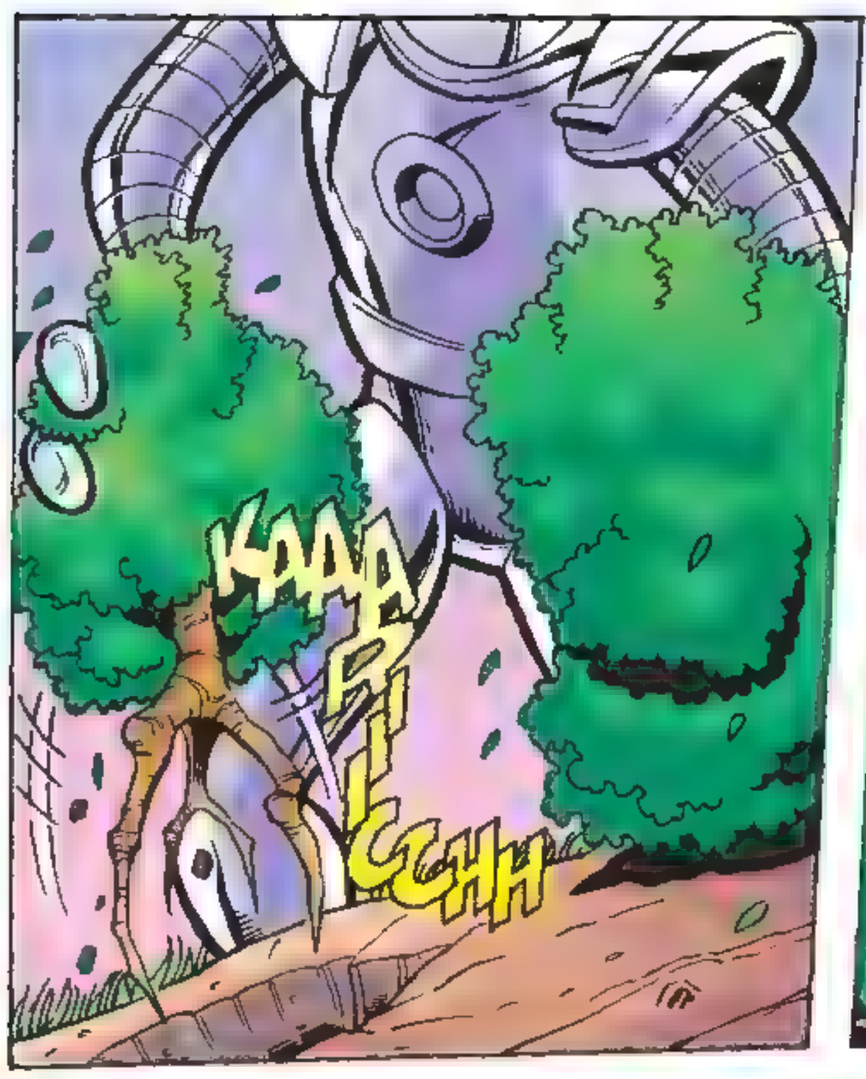

MAKE CERTAIN YOU TAKE THIS WITH YOU!
I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH MONDAY NIGHT FOOZBALL!
HOW DARE YOU GOVERNMENT THUGS COME IN HERE AND CONFISCATE MY PROPERTY!!

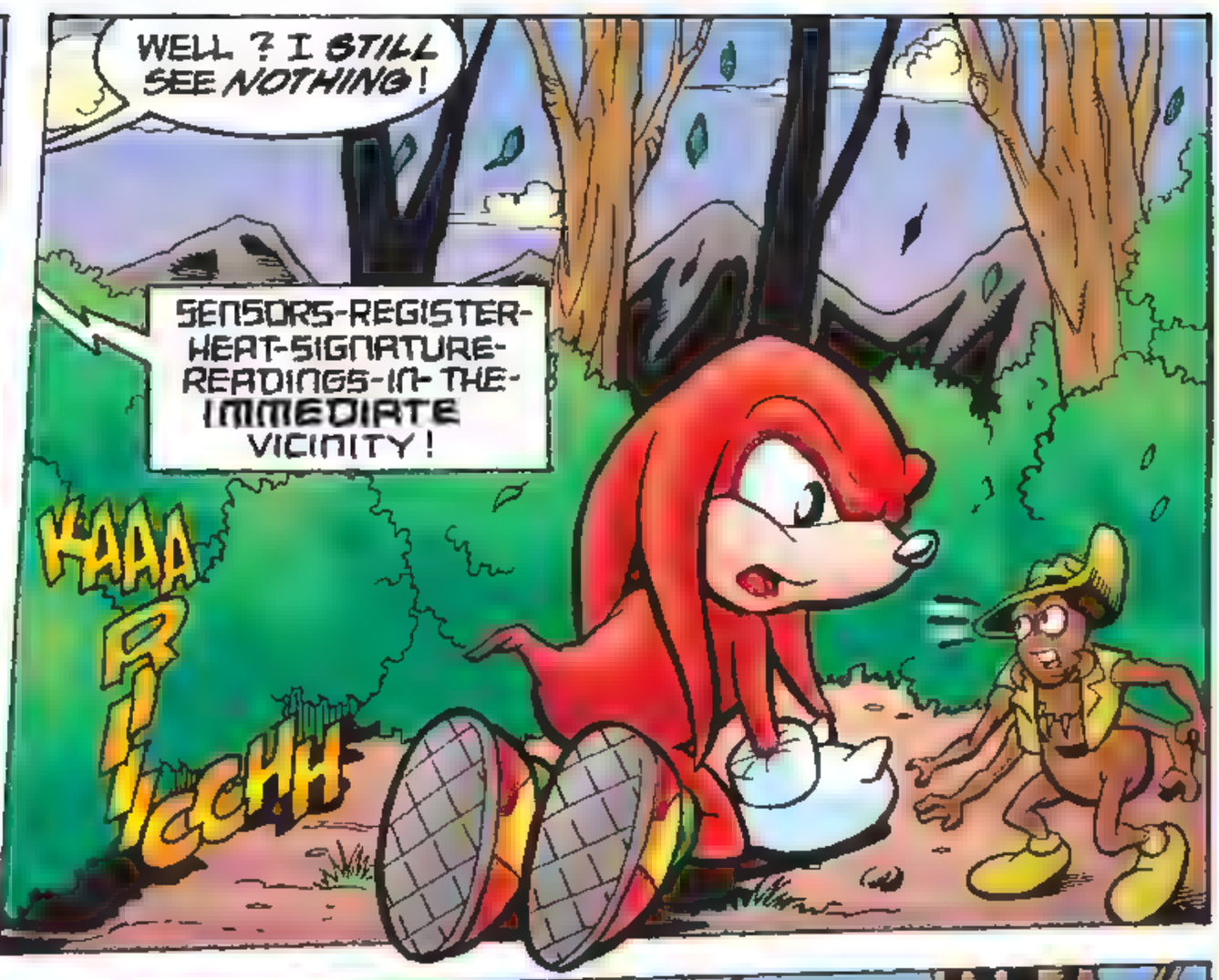

SORRY, SIR, IT'S NOW THE LAW, AND I'M JUST DOING MY JOB!
MARTA! YOU GAVE THEM THE VCR!
WORSE! YOU GAVE THEM THE REMOTE CONTROL!!

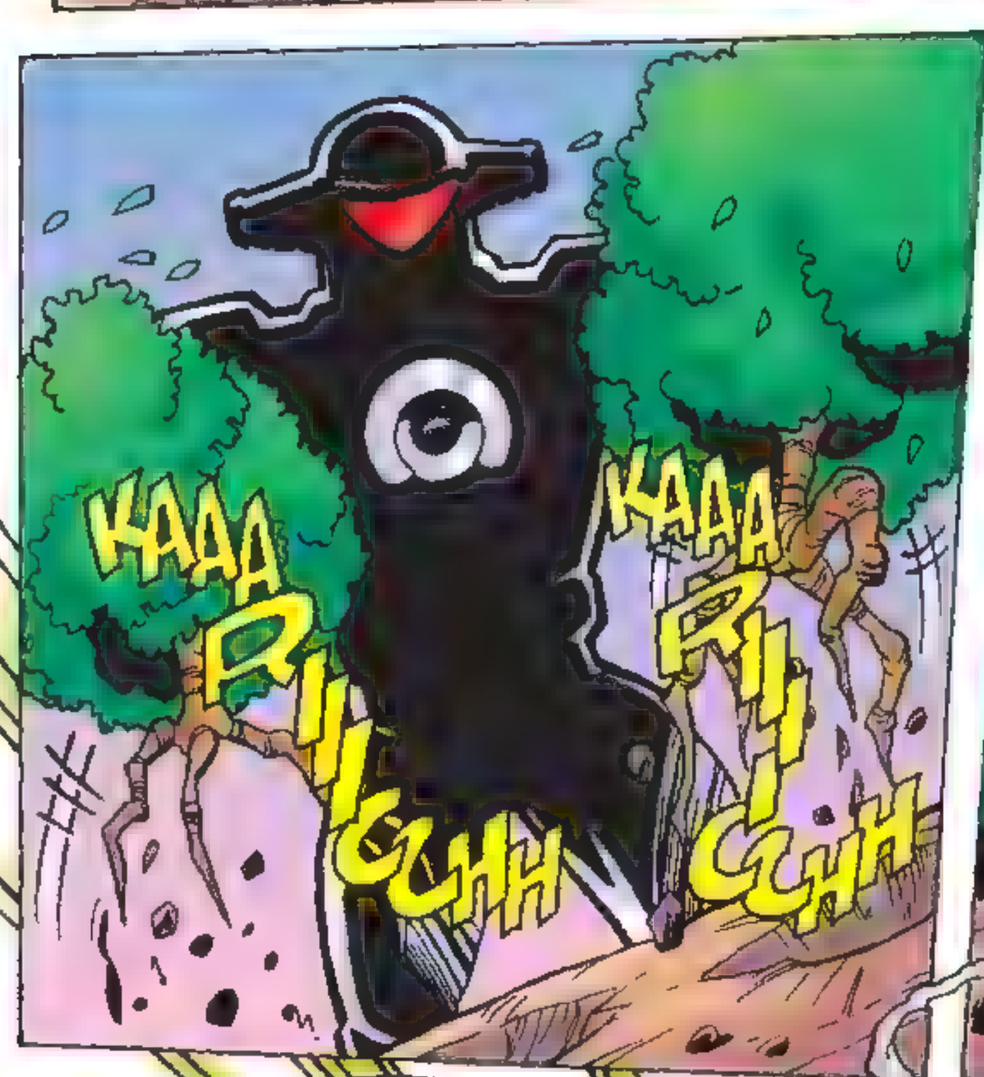

I SEE MR. ARRUNDA IS HAVING A FIT OVER THE LATEST REFERENDUM.
I'M JUST GRATEFUL THE MAJORITY IS GOING ALONG WITH THE POLICY PEACEFULLY.
THANKS FOR MAKING MY JOB EASY, MENNIKER!
SEGA

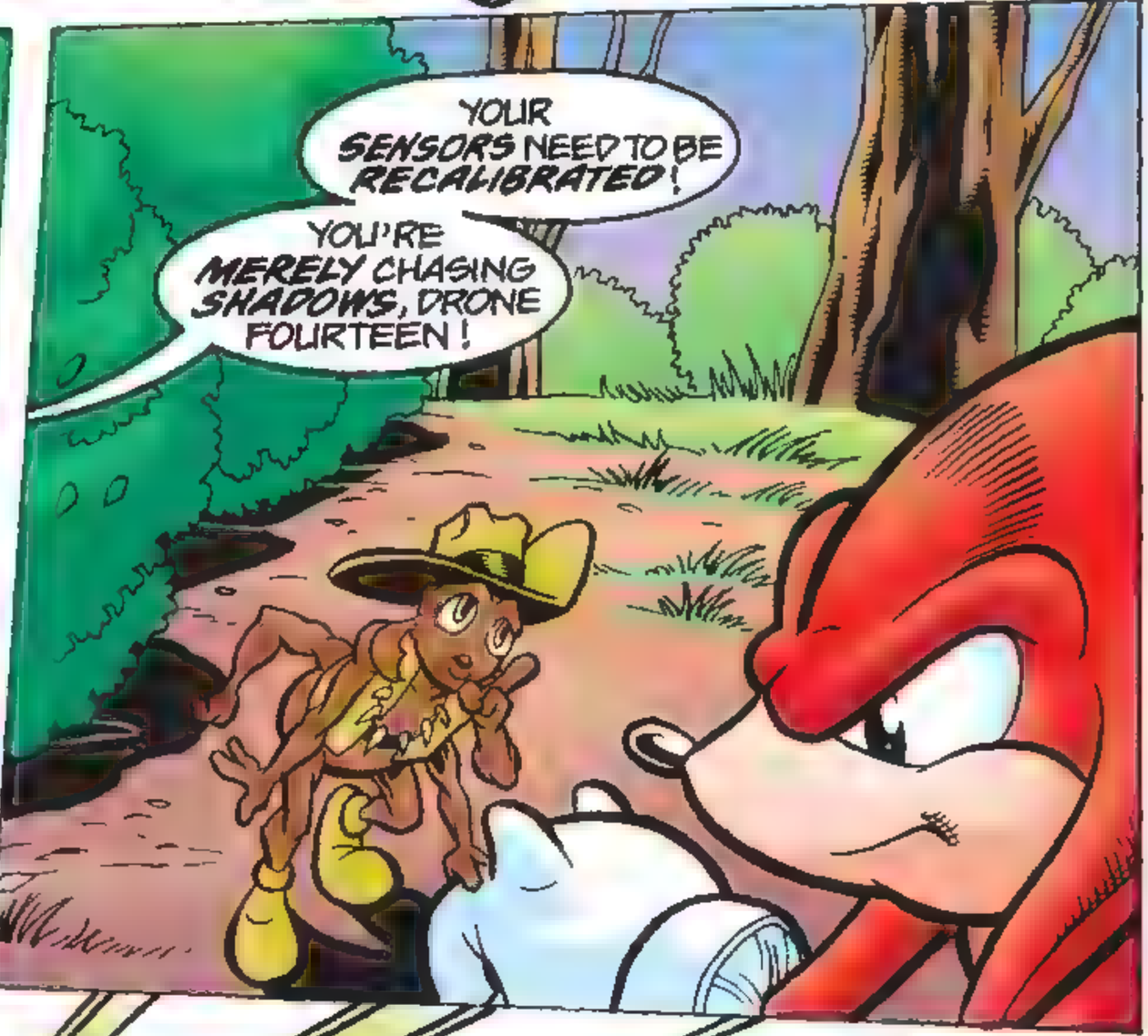
WE HADN'T ANY NEED FOR THIS EQUIPMENT, SO WE'RE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO COOPERATE, STEPPENWOLF.
STOP OVER SOME TIME WHEN IT'S NOT BUSINESS, OKAY?
WILL DO, COUSIN!

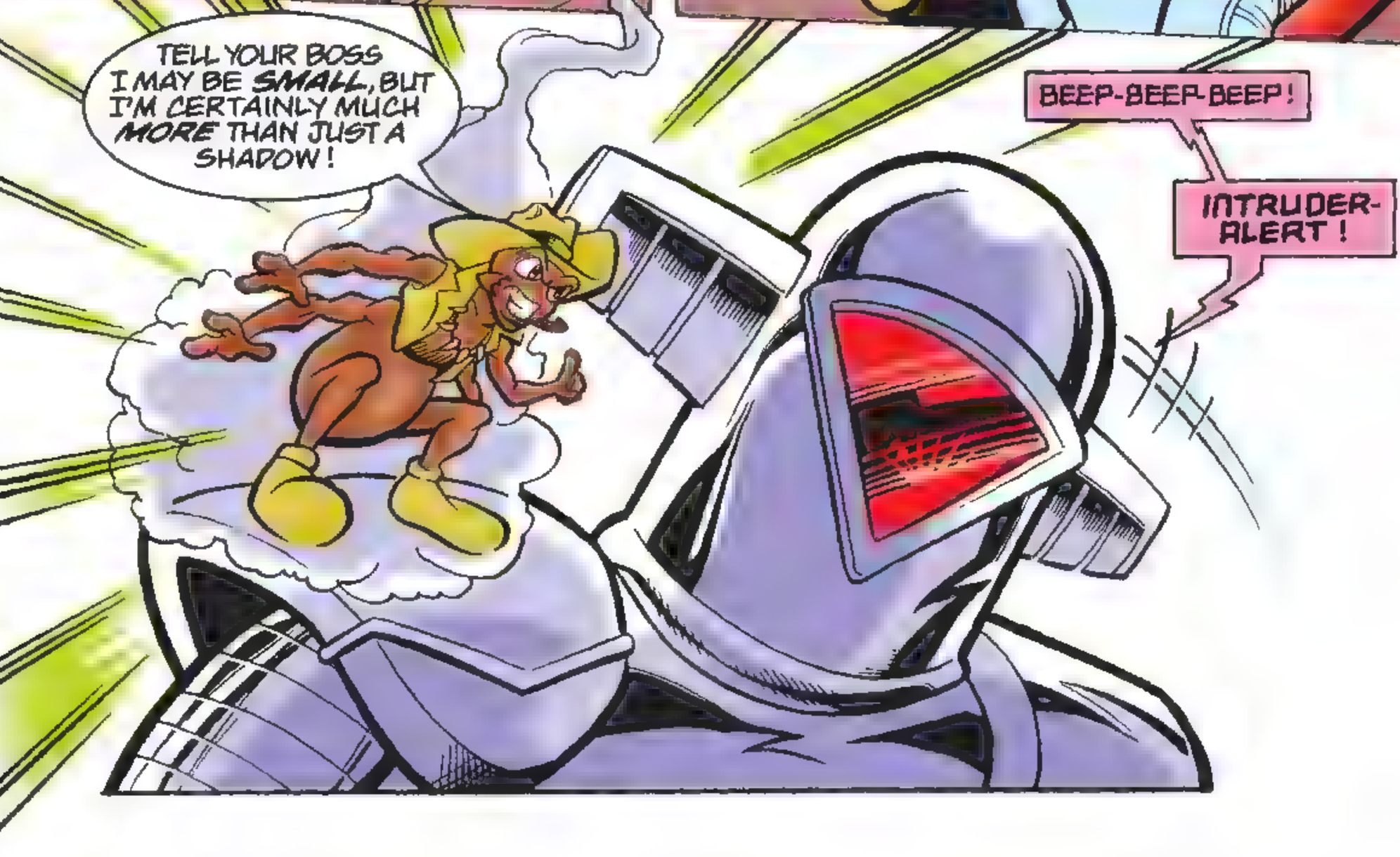

AFTER ALL, WHAT NEED HAVE I FOR ANTIQUES WHEN I HAVE ACCESS TO STATE-OF-THE-ART?


KAAA
RI
CCHH

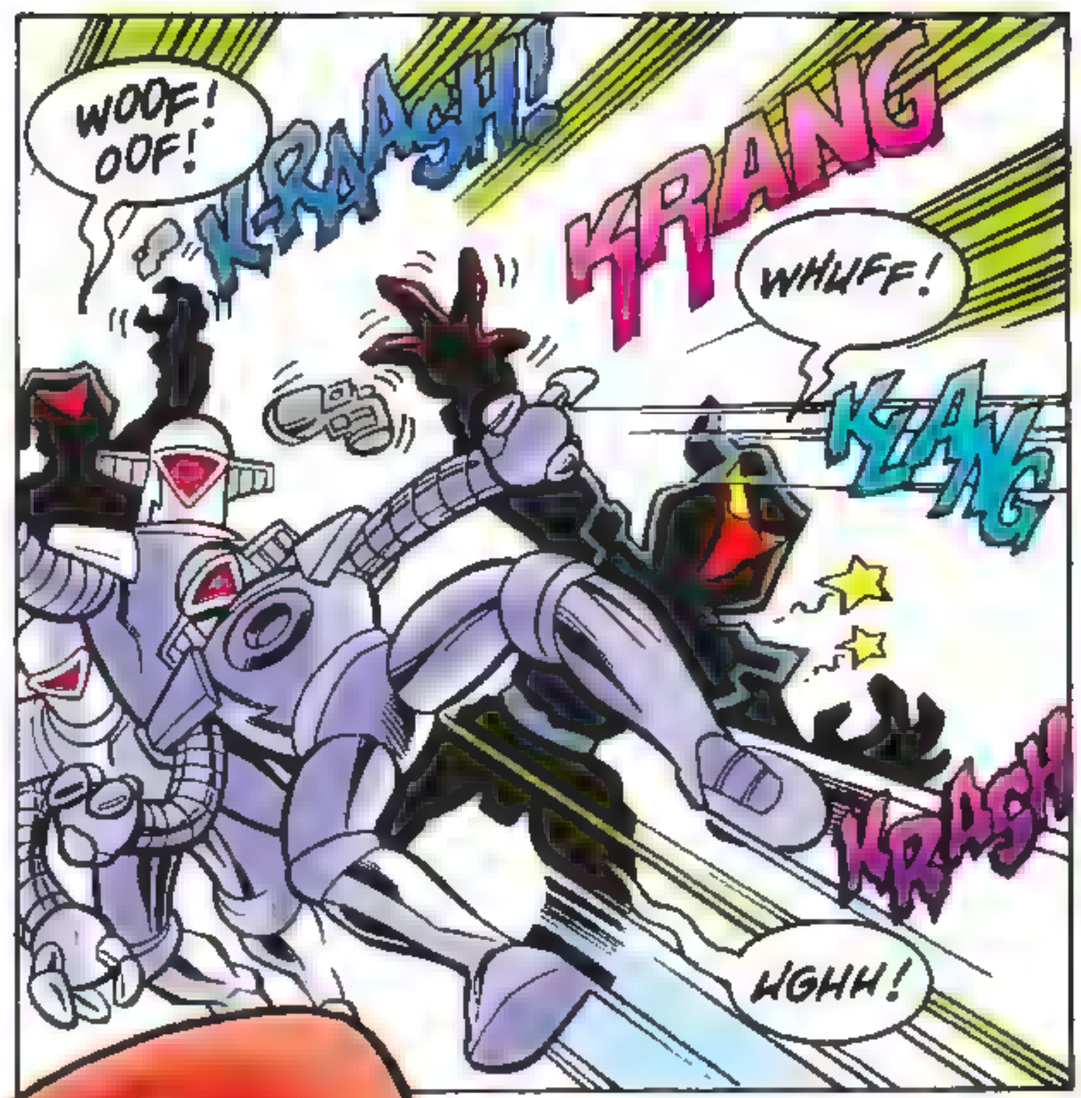

WELL ? I STILL SEE NOTHING !
SENSORS-REGISTER-HEAT-SIGNATURE-READINGS-IN-THE-IMMEDIATE VICINITY !
KAAA
RI
CCHH

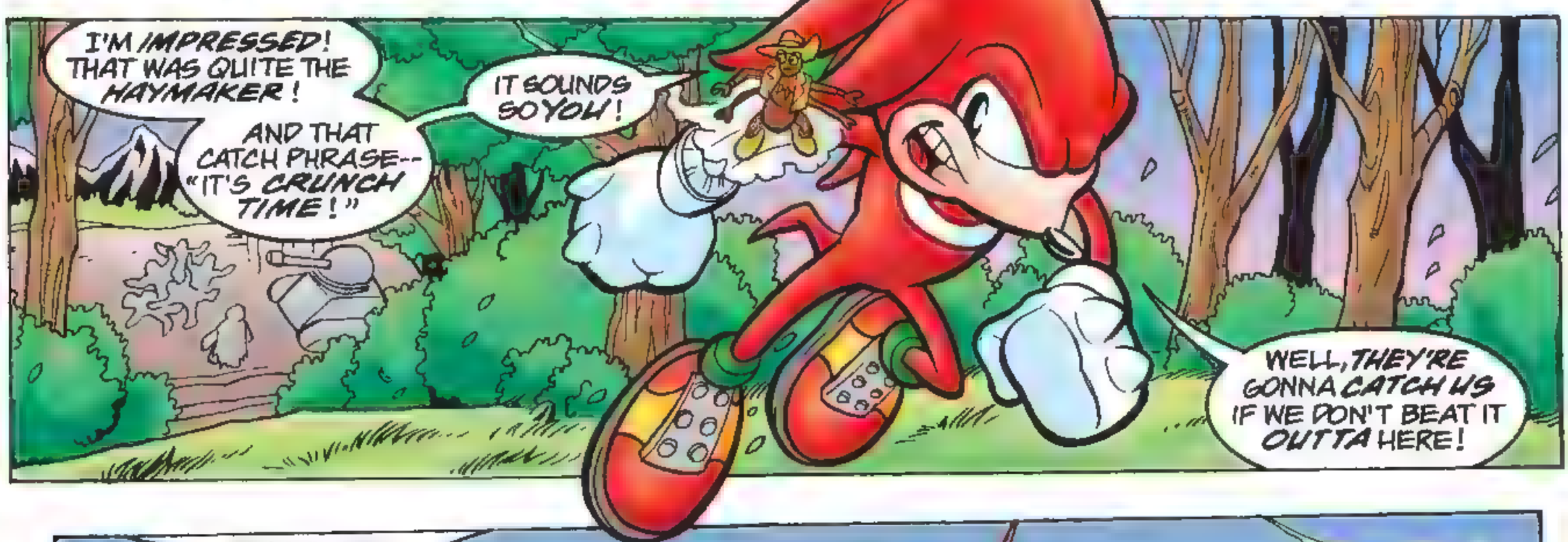

KAAA
RI
CCHH
KAAA
RI
CCHH

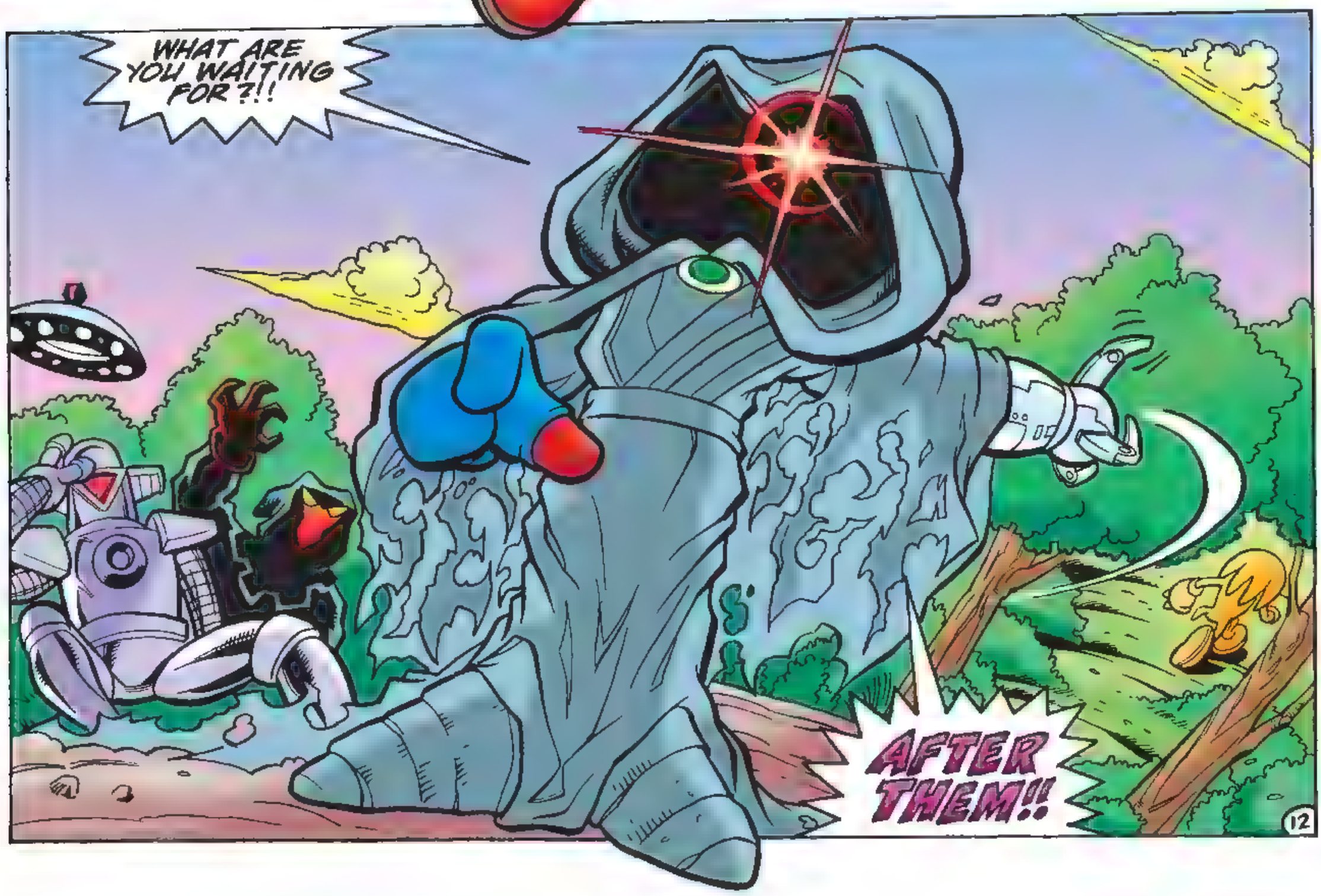

YOUR SENSORS NEED TO BE RECALIBRATED !
YOU'RE MERELY CHASING SHADOWS, DRONE FOURTEEN !


TELL YOUR BOSS I MAY BE SMALL, BUT I'M CERTAINLY MUCH MORE THAN JUST A SHADOW !
BEEP-BEEP-BEEP !
INTRUDER-ALERT !

SAY, PAL, KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
IT'S CRUNCH TIME!
KER-WHAIMM!

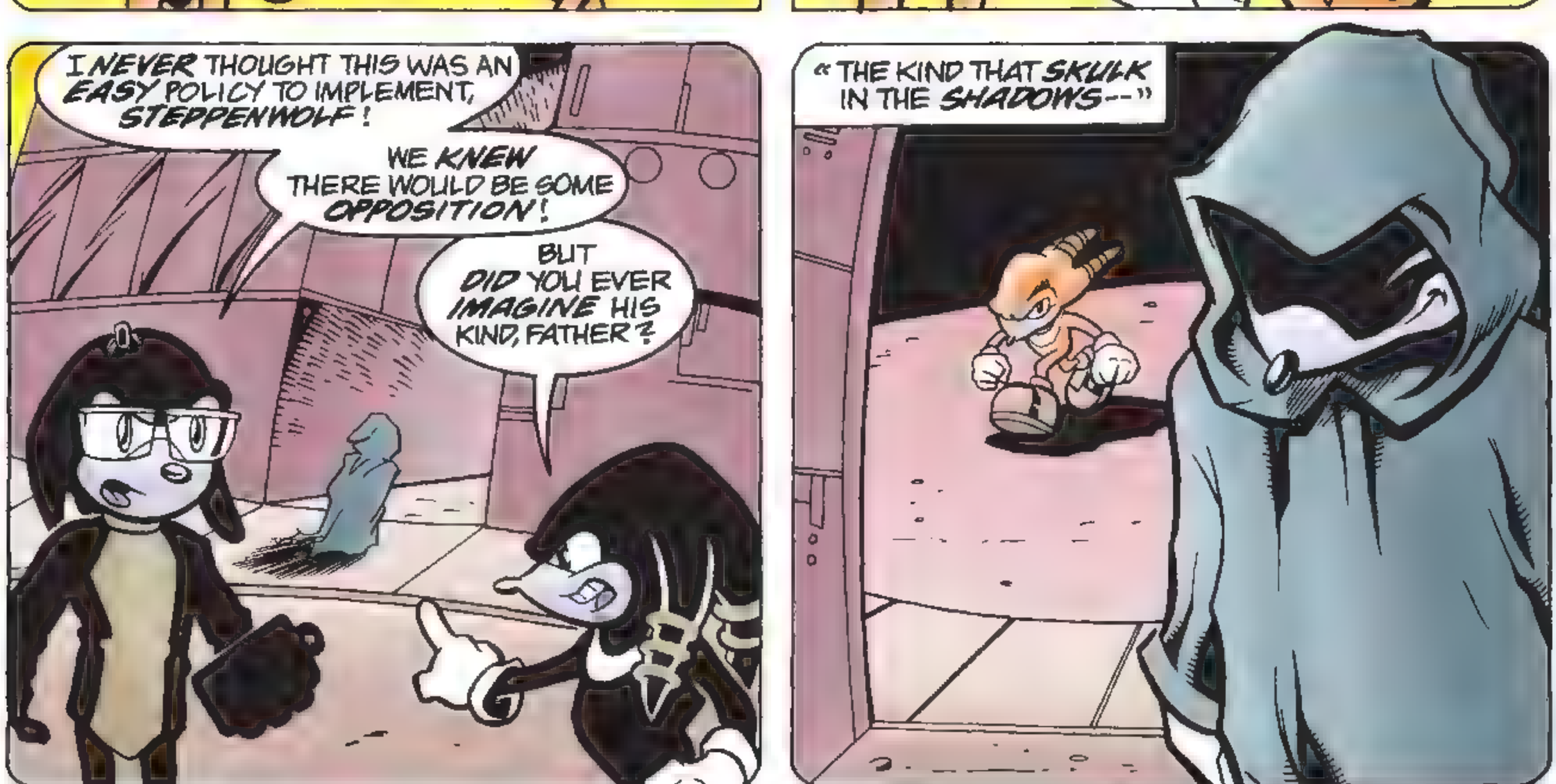

WOOF! OOF!
K-RAASH!
KRANG
WHUFF!
KLANG
KRASH
UGHH!


I'M IMPRESSED! THAT WAS QUITE THE HAYMAKER!
IT SOUNDS SO YOU!
AND THAT CATCH PHRASE-- "IT'S CRUNCH TIME!"
WELL, THEY'RE GONNA CATCH US IF WE DON'T BEAT IT OUTTA HERE!


WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!!
AFTER THEM!!

EASY WITH THAT STUFF, MEN! IT STILL HAS TO BE CATALOGED AND STORED!

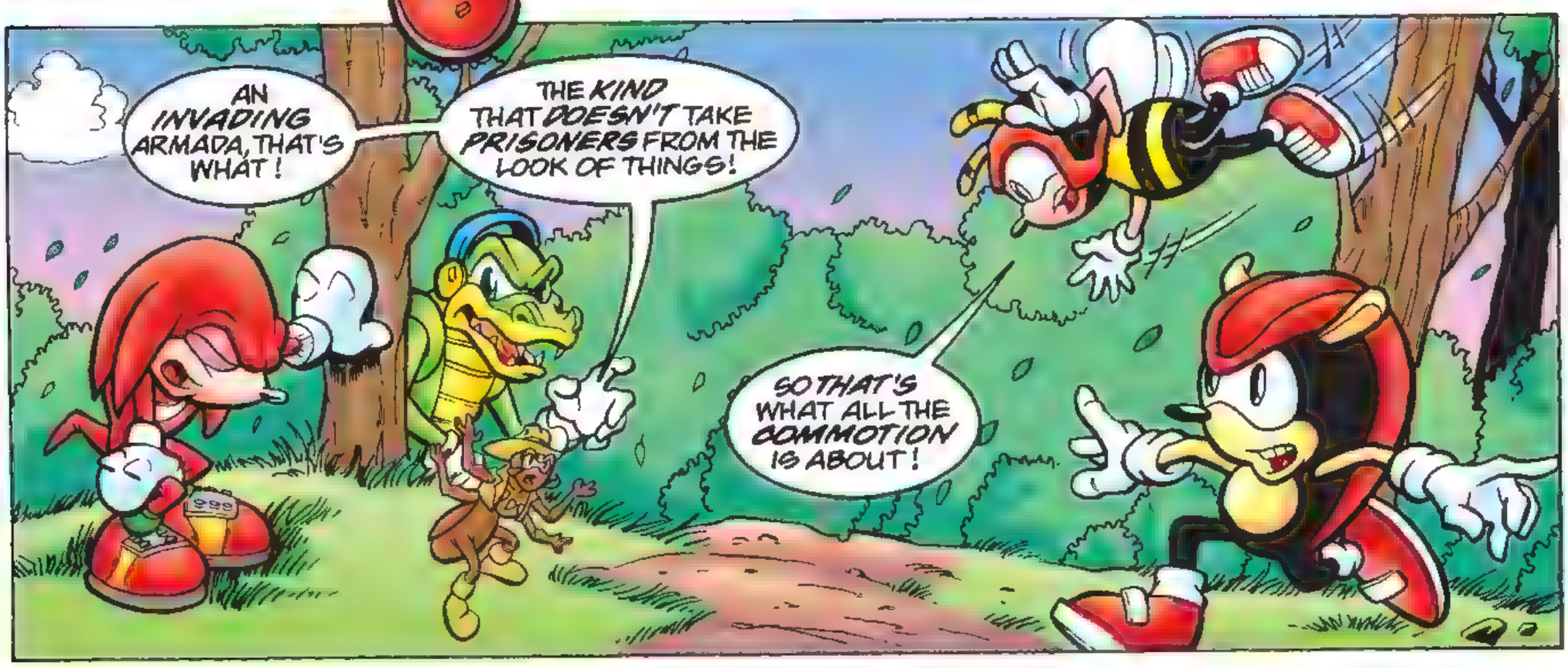
JUST BECAUSE IT'S BEING COLLECTED DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE DESTROYING IT!

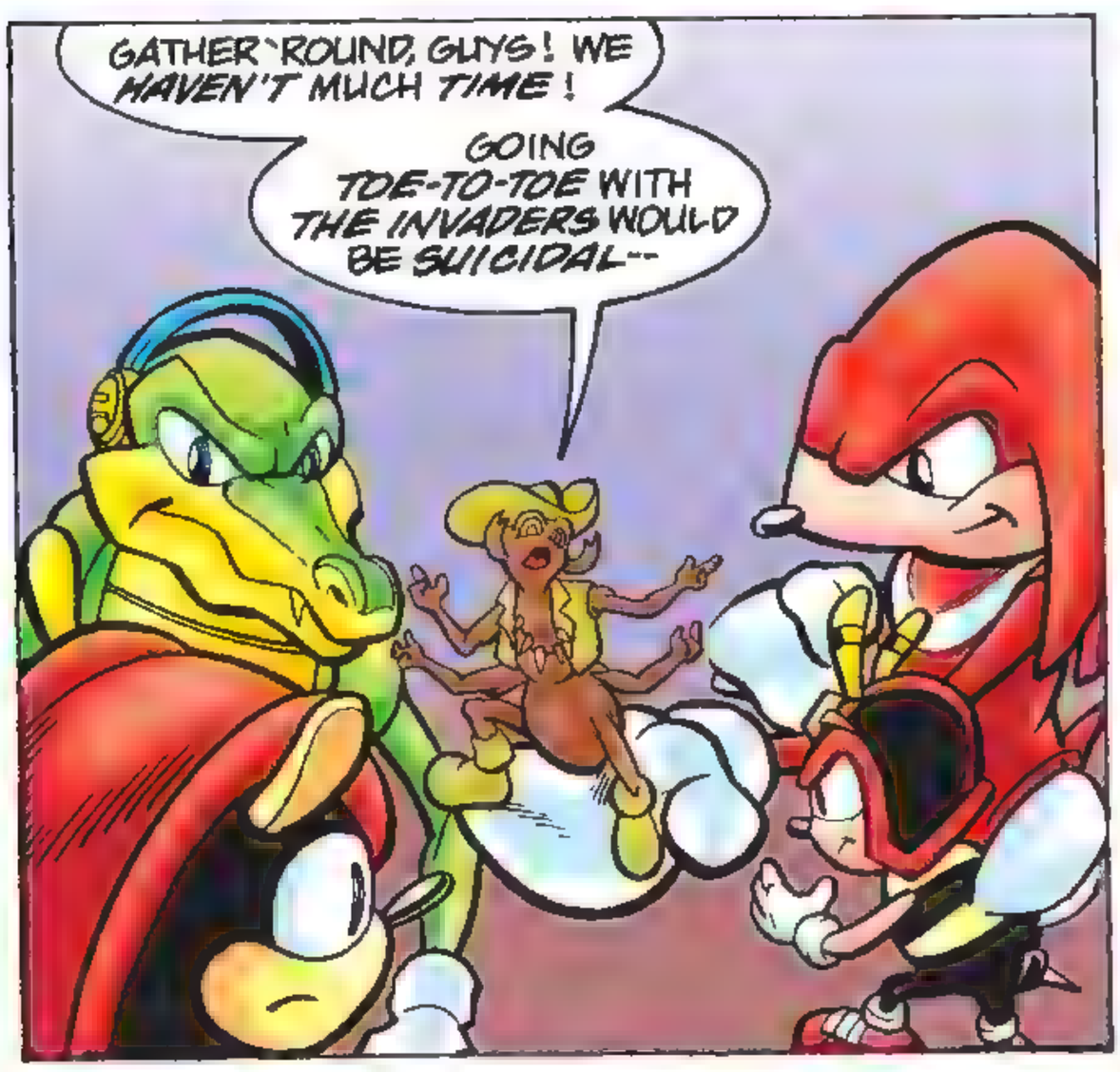


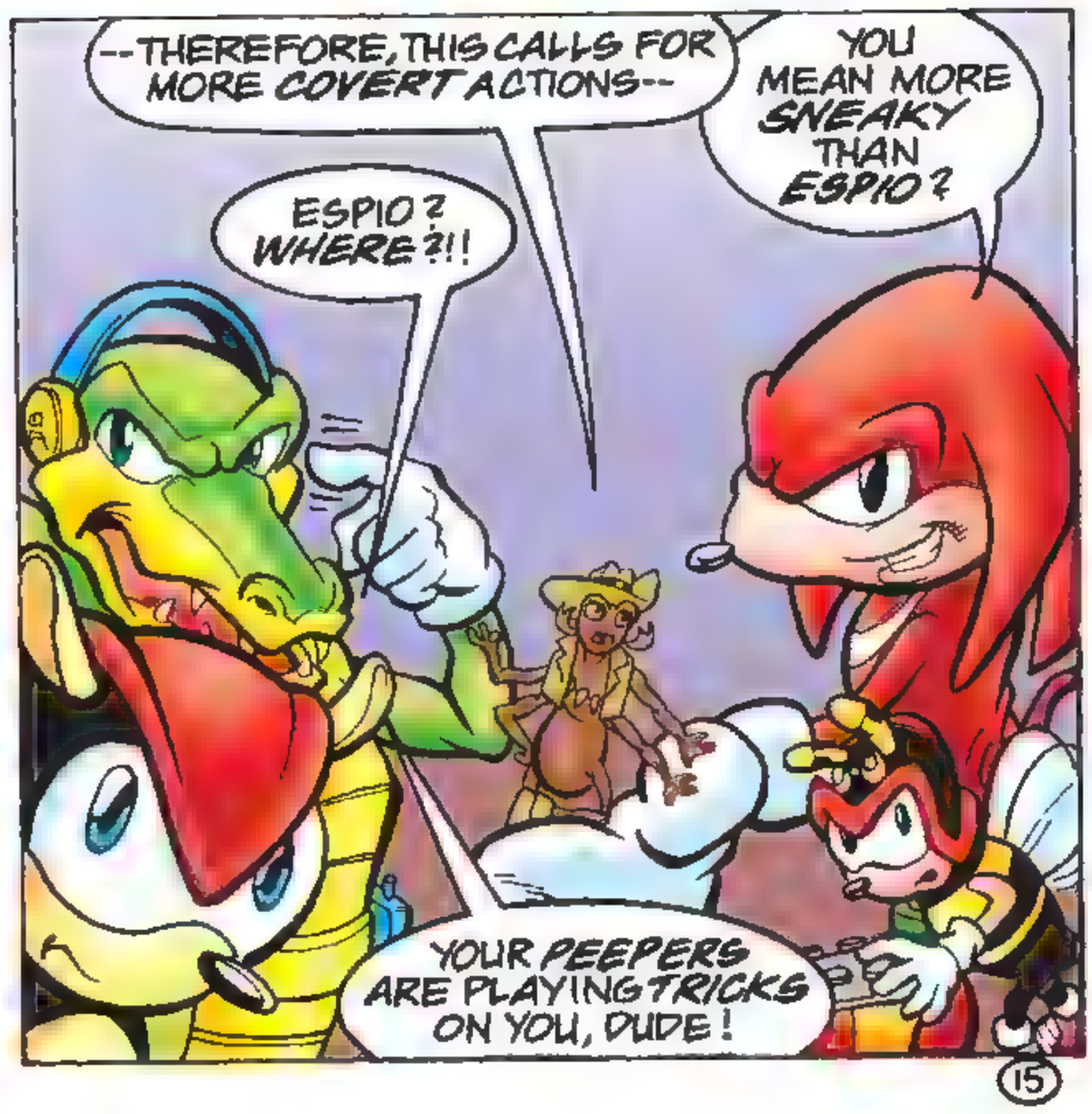
IS EVERYONE HERE?
GATHER 'ROUND-- FOR THERE IS MUCH TO DO!
WE ALL KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE!
ALL OF US NOT ONLY BELIEVE IN OUR CAUSE, WE ACKNOWLEDGE IT A SACRED DUTY!
THE POWER ELITE WOULD LIKE US TO GO BACK TO THE DARK AGES! ONLY DIMITRI HAD--EH? WHAT'S THAT?
CREAK
WHERE'D THAT SOUND COME FROM?!
LOOK!
OVER THERE!
IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!
KZAAAT
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
THESE GUYS ARE HARD CORE!
I BETTER GET -- AND FAST!
STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!

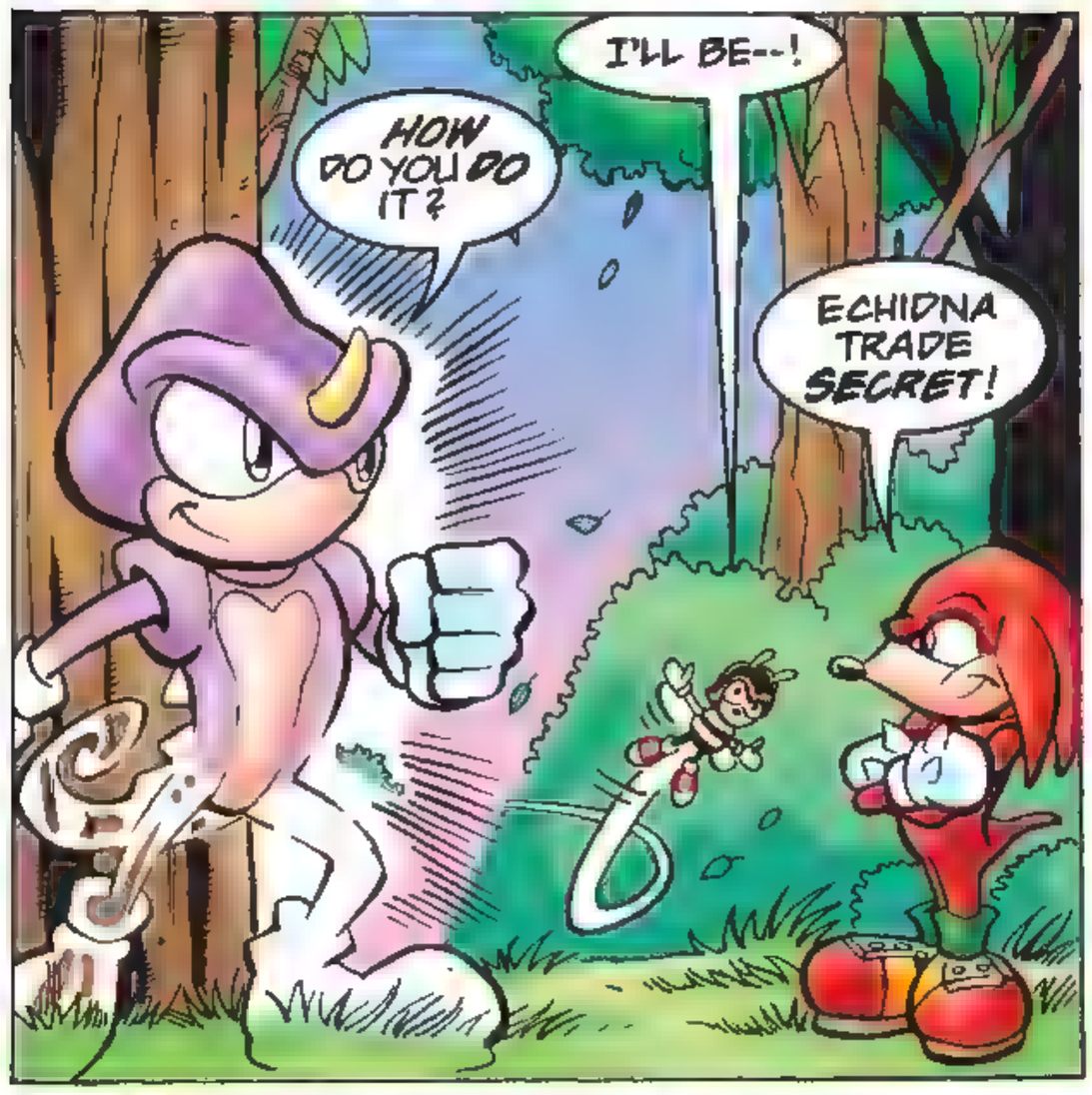
NOT TOO FRIENDLY, ARE THEY?
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE FLIPPANT ABOUT THEM, KNUCKLES!
AS YOU SAID, THERE'S MORE OF THEM THAN THERE ARE OF US!

THAT CAN BE EASILY REMEDIED!
SAY, BRO'--
WHAT'S SHAKIN'?


AN INVADING ARMADA, THAT'S WHAT!
THE KIND THAT DOESN'T TAKE PRISONERS FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS!
SO THAT'S WHAT ALL THE COMMOTION IS ABOUT!

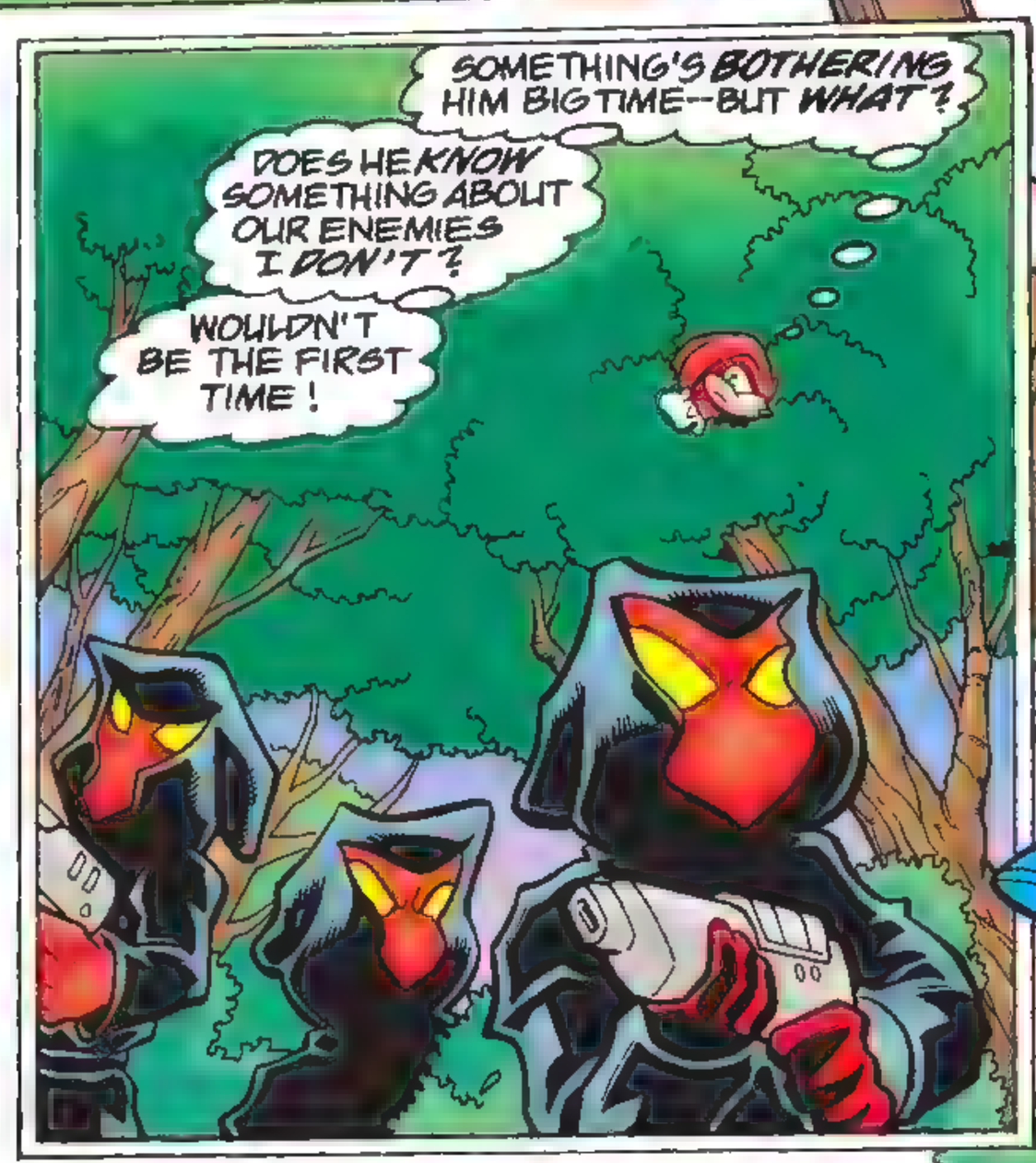

GATHER 'ROUND, GUYS! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!
GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE INVADERS WOULD BE SUICIDAL--


--THEREFORE, THIS CALLS FOR MORE COVERT ACTIONS--
YOU MEAN MORE SNEAKY THAN ESPIO?
ESPIO? WHERE?!!
YOUR PEEPERS ARE PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU, DUDE!

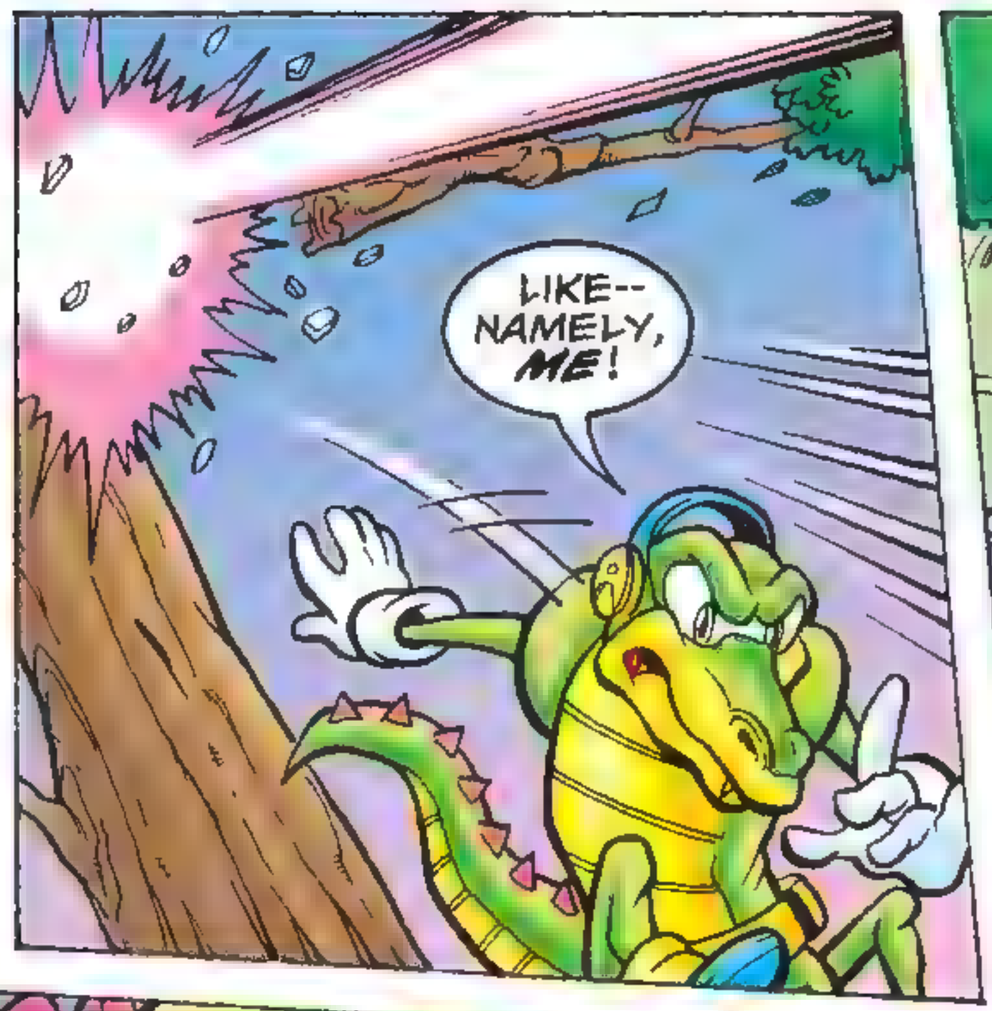

HOW DO YOU DO IT?
I'LL BE--!
ECHIDNA TRADE SECRET!

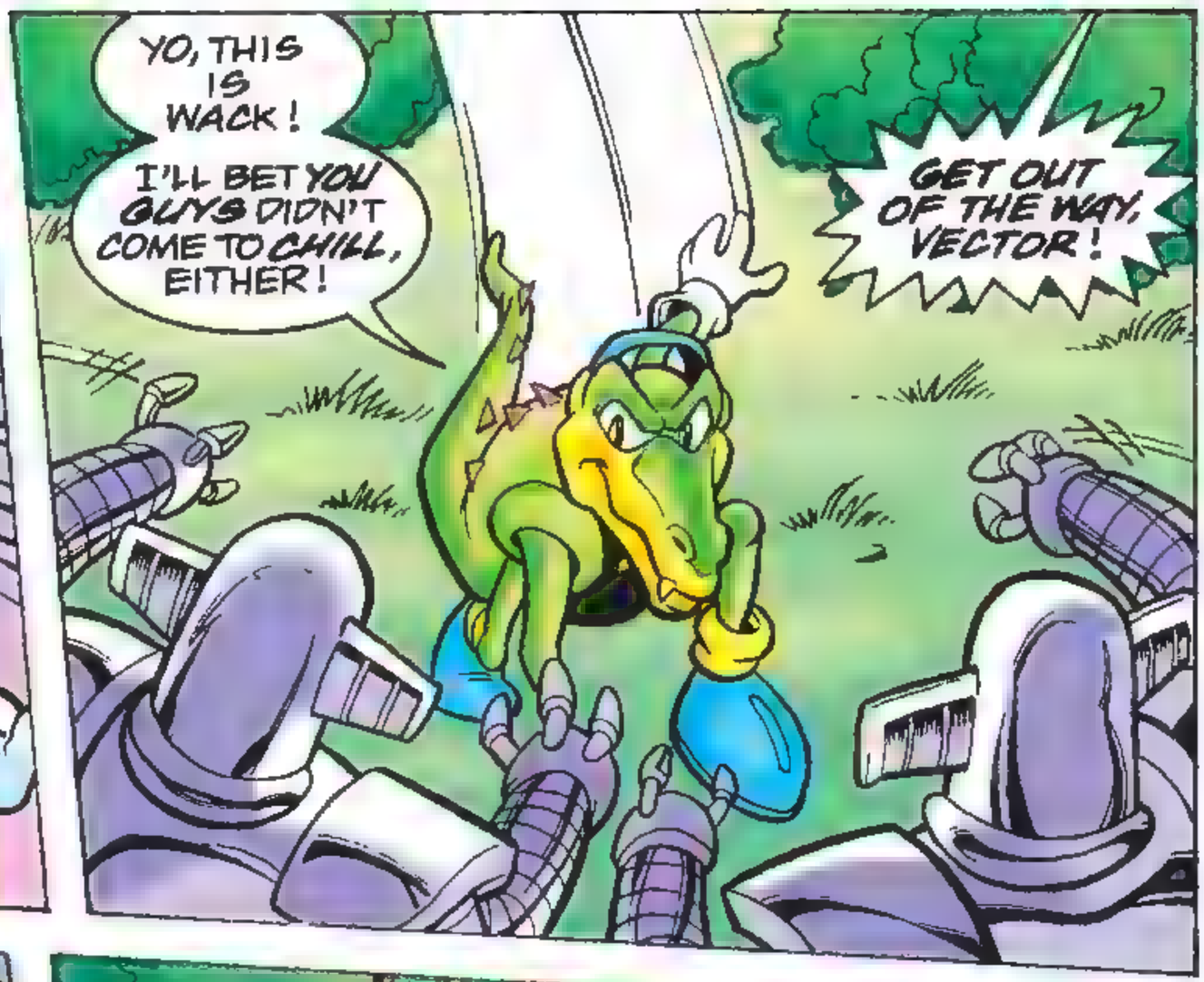
SNAP!
KR-RAAK!
POP POP POP
HOLD IT!
FROM THE SOUNDS OF IT, THEY'RE CLOSING IN.
SCATTER, EVERYONE--

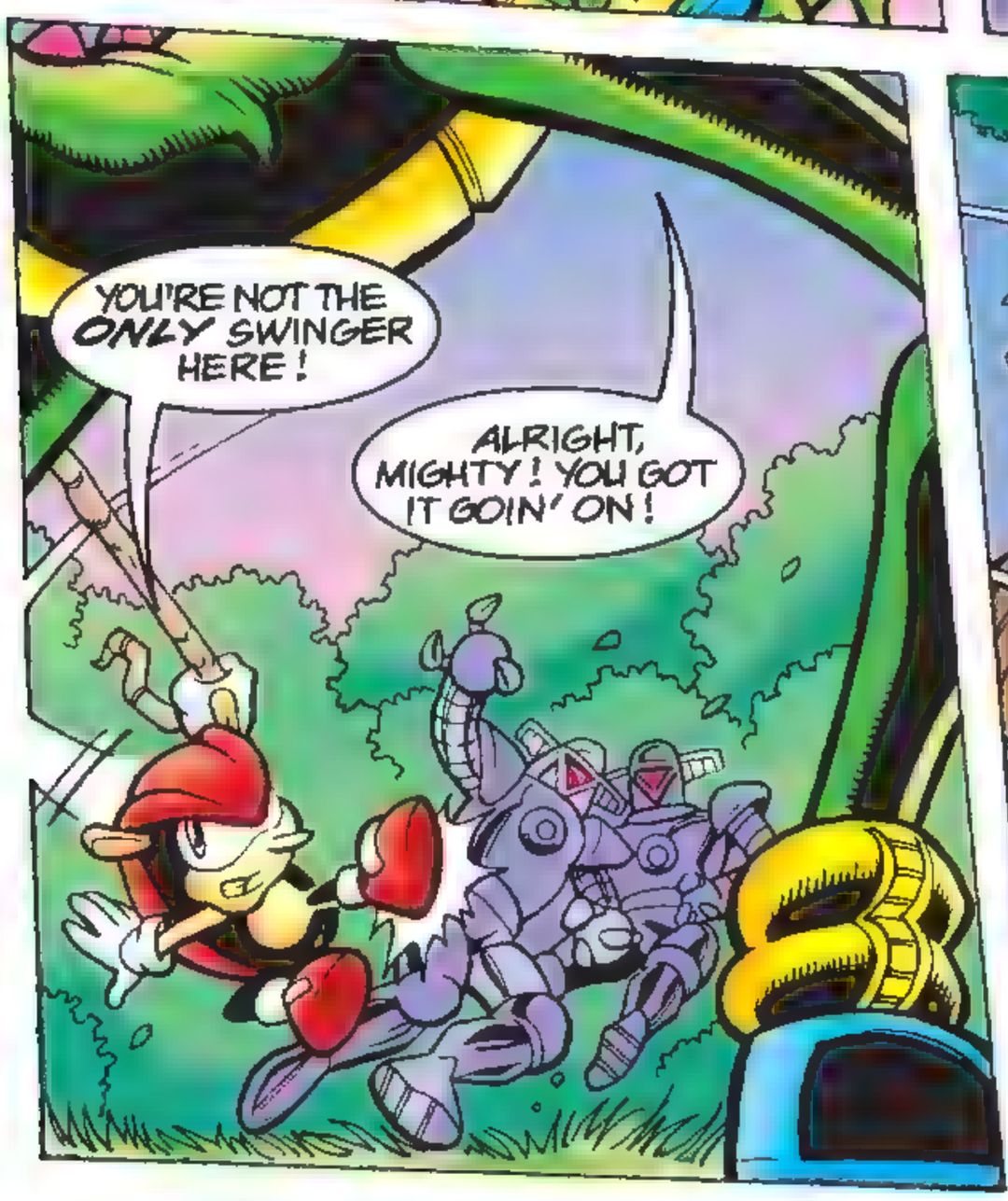
--AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL!
NOW--MOVE!
ARCHY--WAIT!
POP!

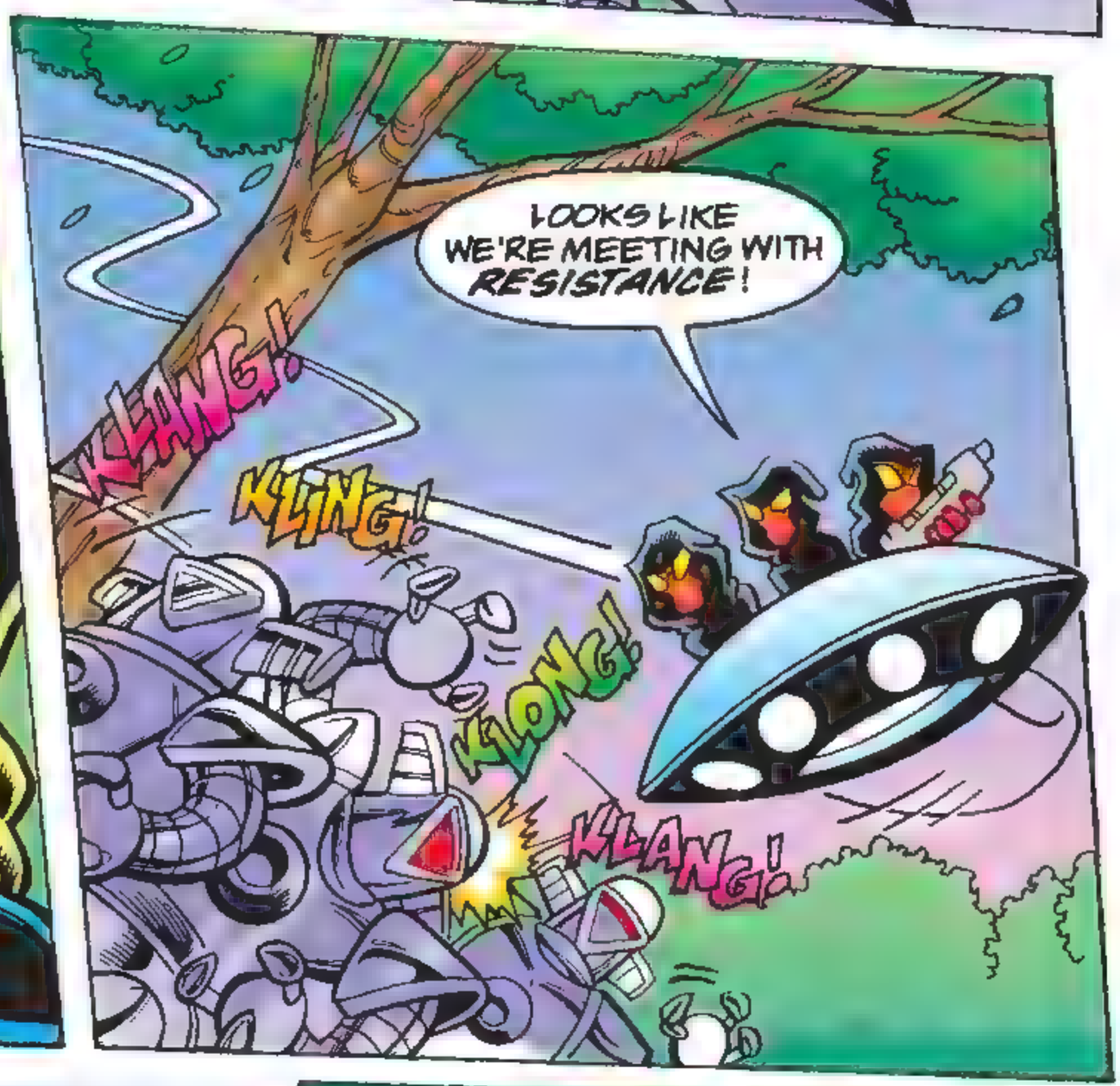

SOMETHING'S BOTHERING HIM BIG TIME--BUT WHAT?
DOES HE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT OUR ENEMIES I DON'T?
WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME!

YO! FOOL!
DON'T YOU KNOW DRIVEBYS CAN HURT SOMEBODY?

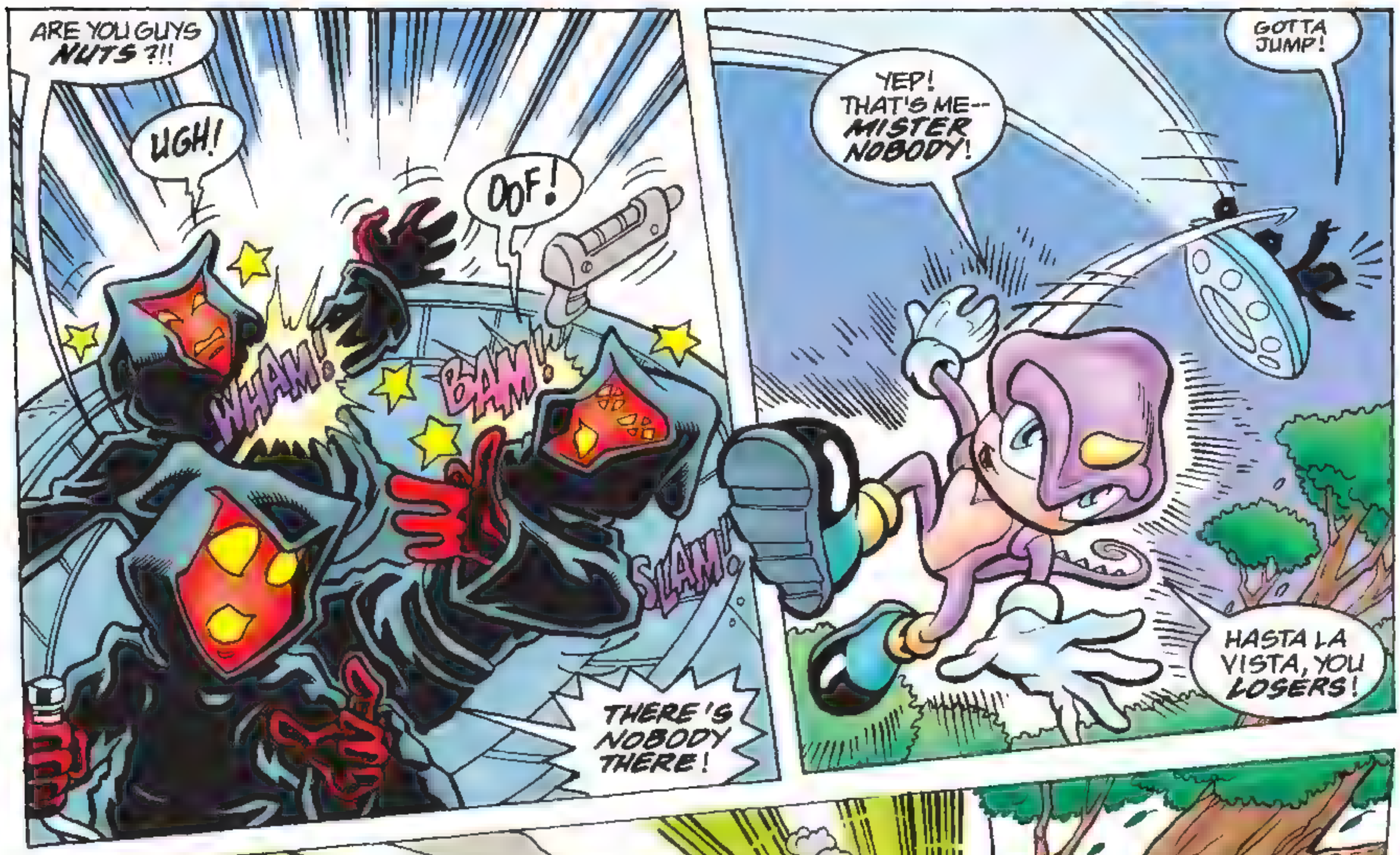

LIKE-- NAMELY, ME!

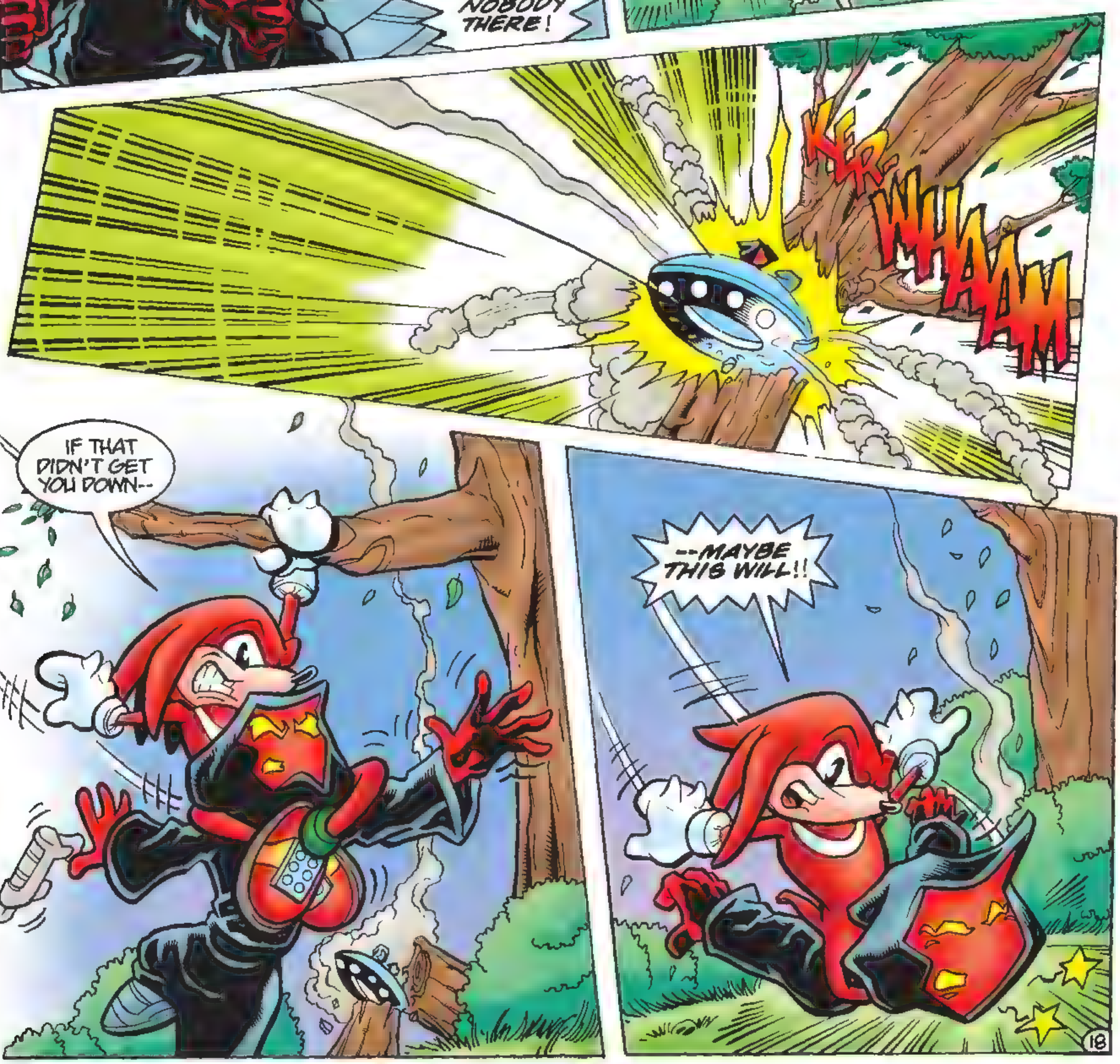

YO, THIS IS WACK!
I'LL BET YOU GUYS DIDN'T COME TO CHILL, EITHER!
GET OUT OF THE WAY, VECTOR!

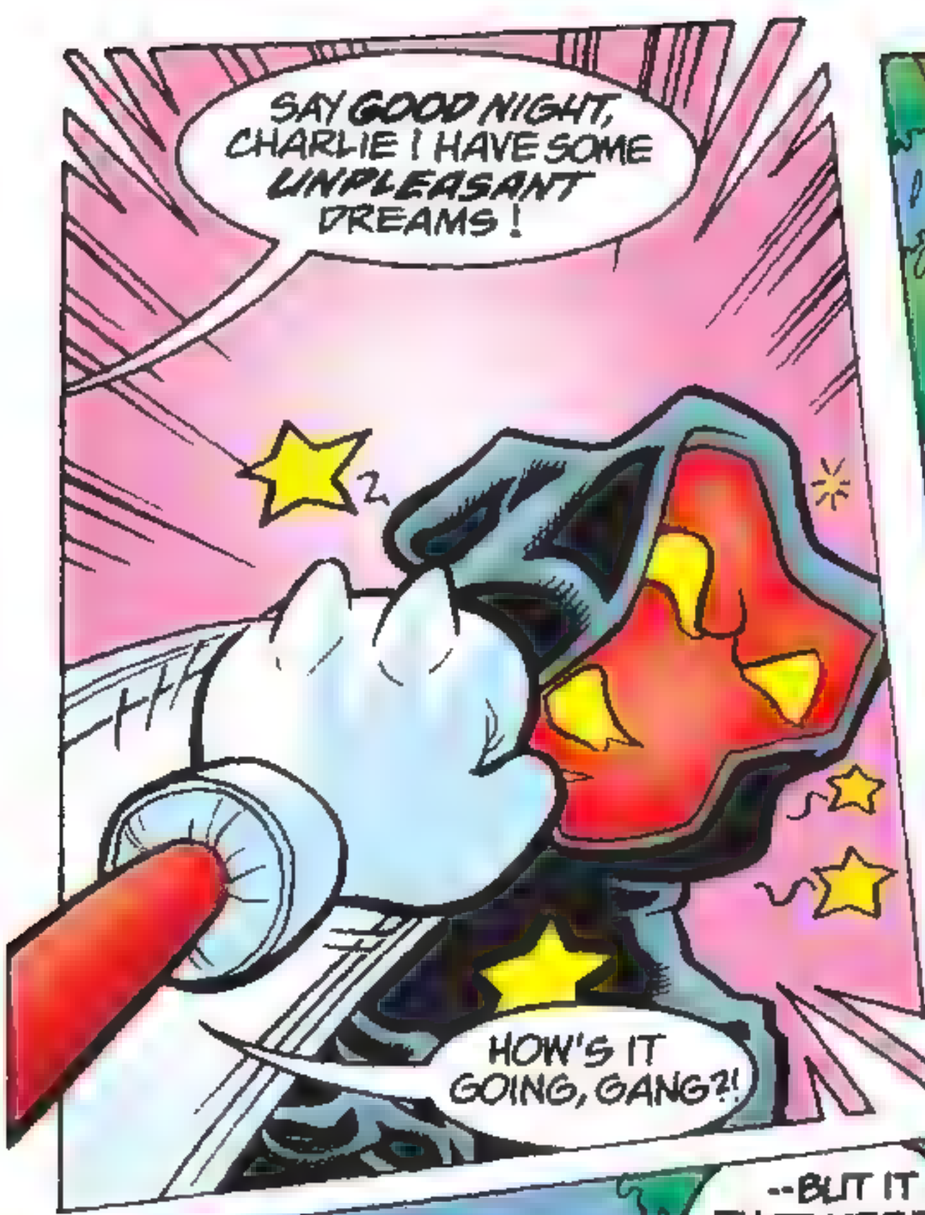

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY SWINGER HERE!
ALRIGHT, MIGHTY! YOU GOT IT GOIN' ON!

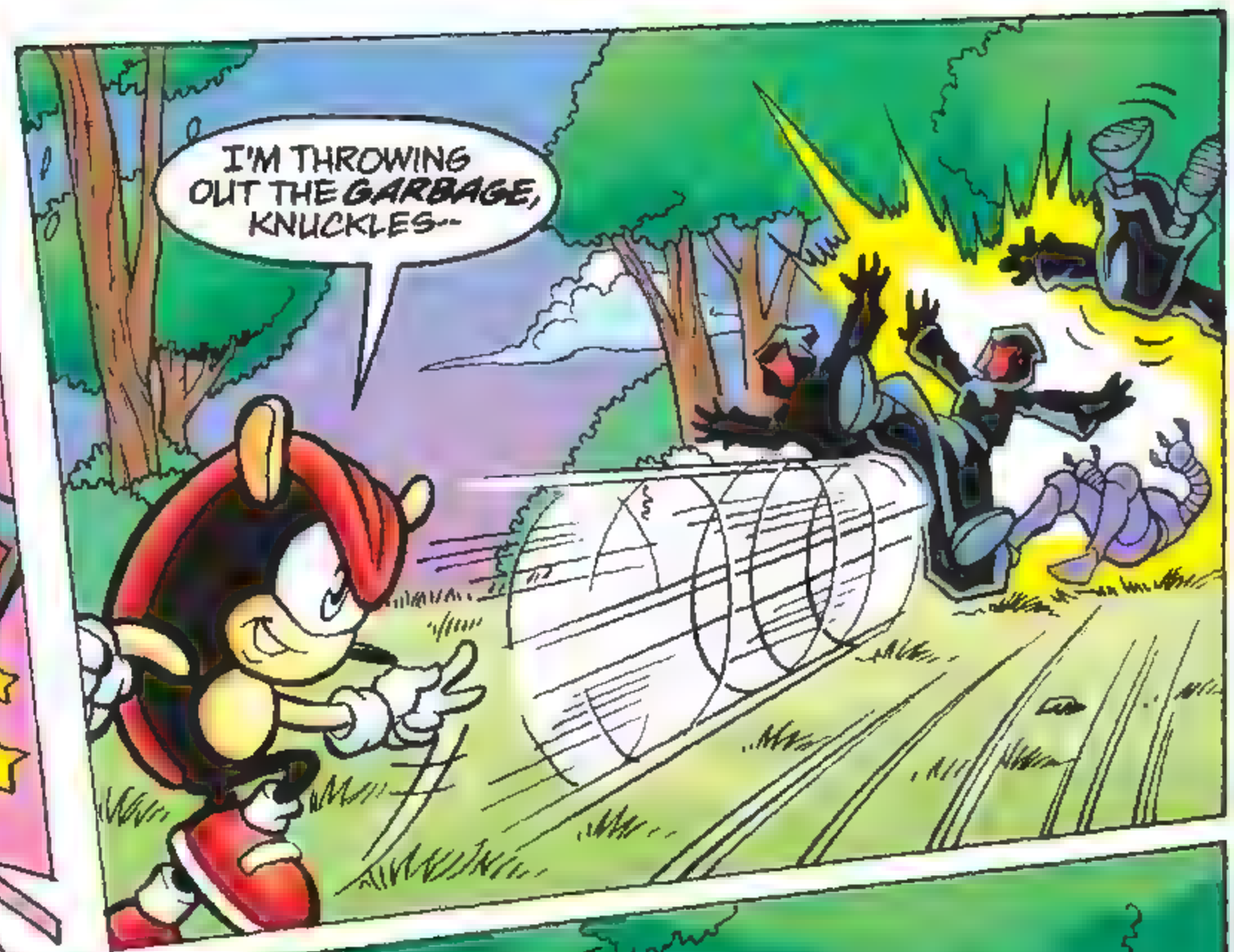

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE MEETING WITH RESISTANCE!
KLANG!
KLING!
KLONG!
KLANG!

THEY'LL LEARN! RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!
WHAT WAS THAT? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
WHUMP!


ARE YOU GUYS NUTS ?!!
UGH!
OOF!
WHAM!
BAM!
SLAM!
THERE'S NOBODY THERE!
YEP! THAT'S ME-- MISTER NOBODY!
GOTTA JUMP!
HASTA LA VISTA, YOU LOSERS!

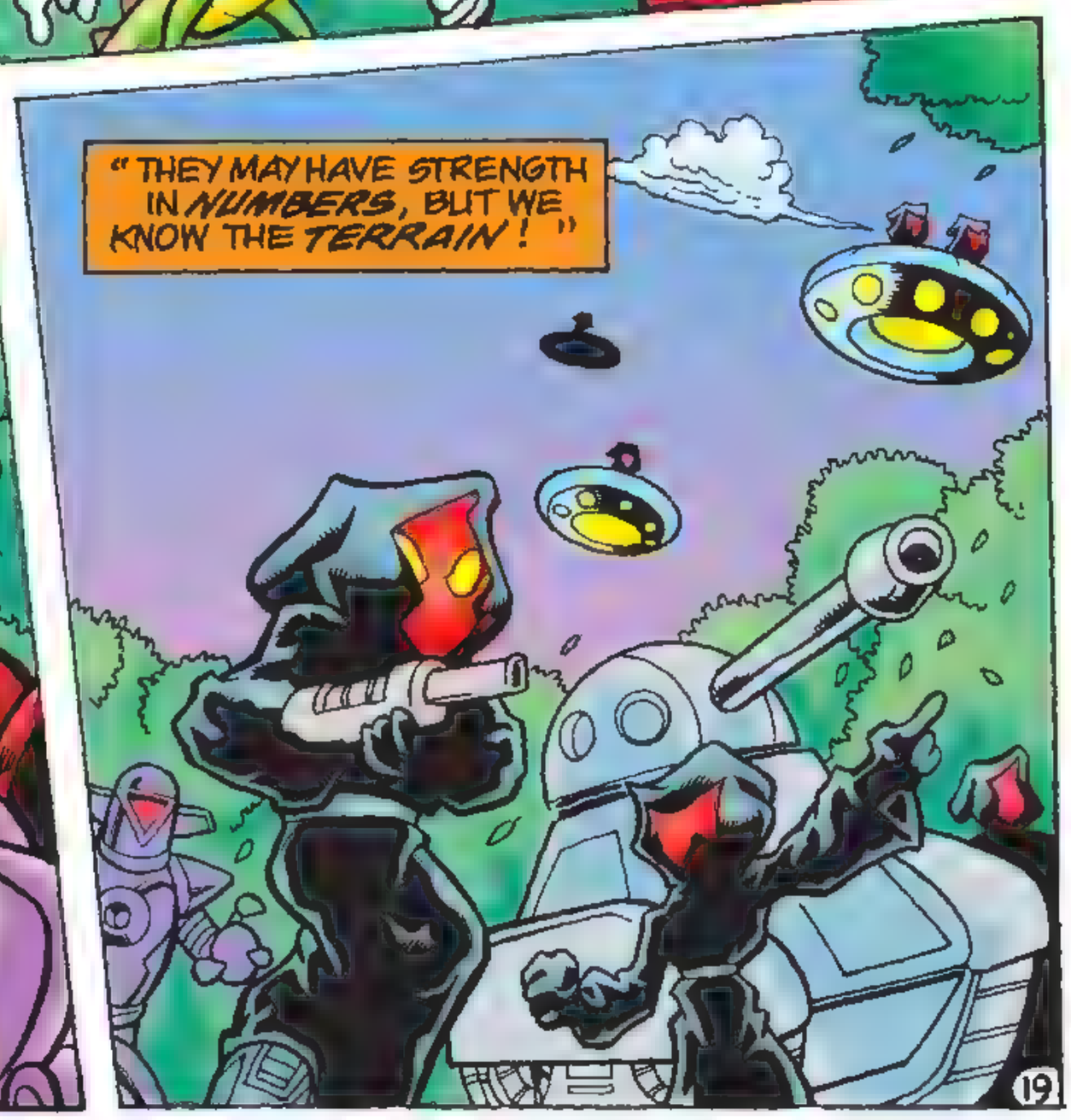

KER-WHAAM
IF THAT DIDN'T GET YOU DOWN--
--MAYBE THIS WILL!!

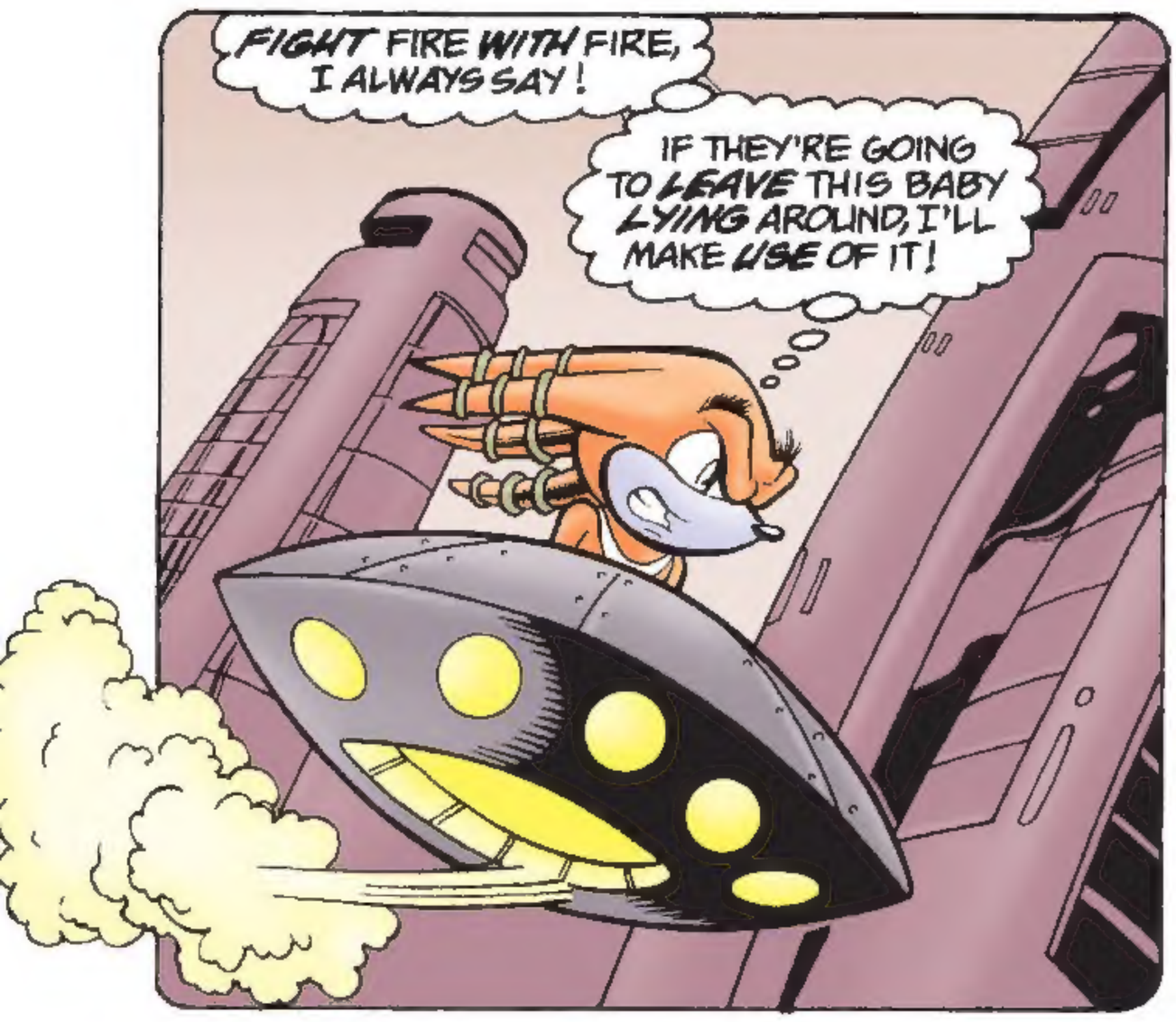

SAY GOOD NIGHT, CHARLIE! HAVE SOME UNPLEASANT DREAMS!
HOW'S IT GOING, GANG?!

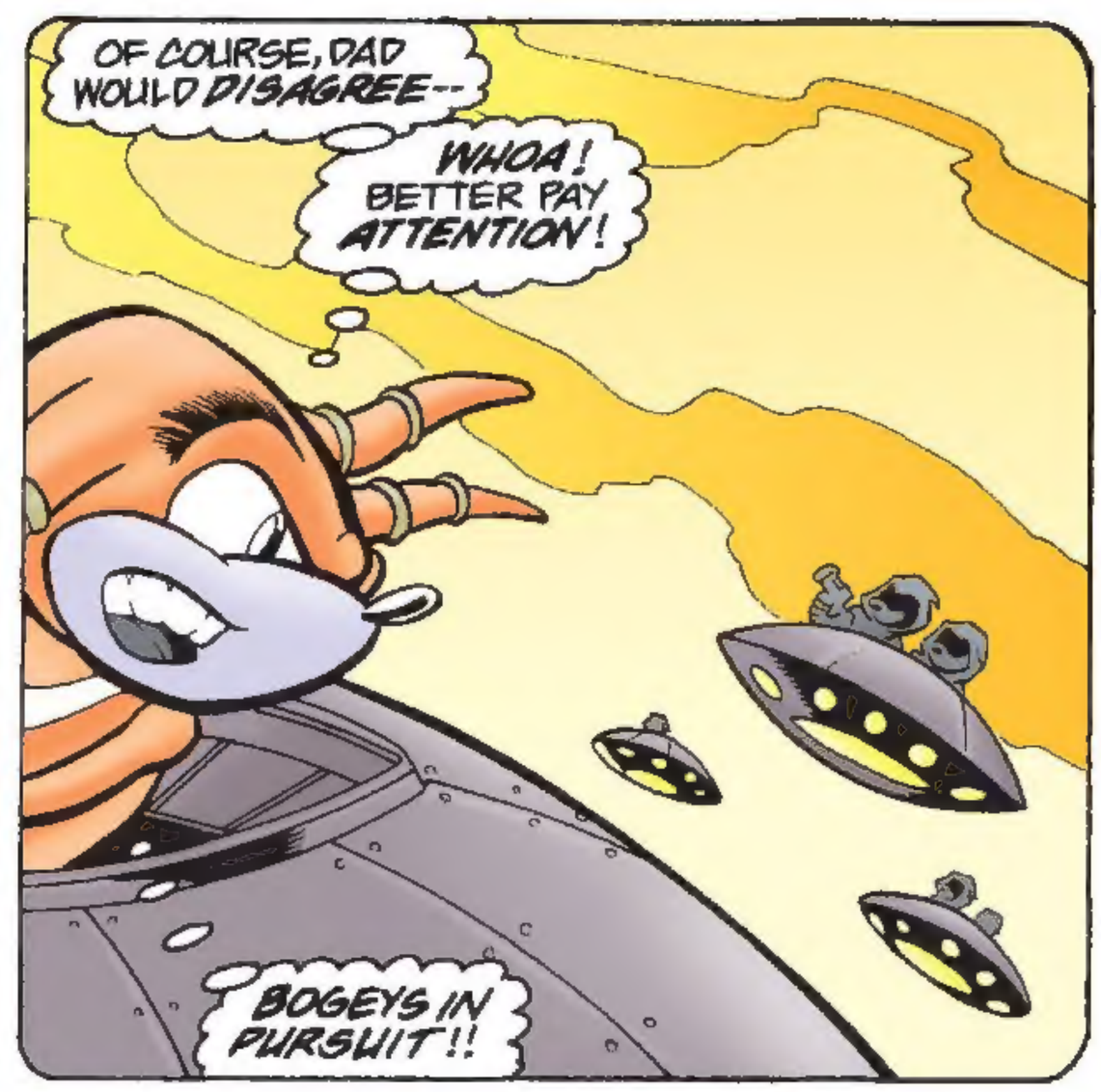

I'M THROWING OUT THE GARBAGE, KNUCKLES--

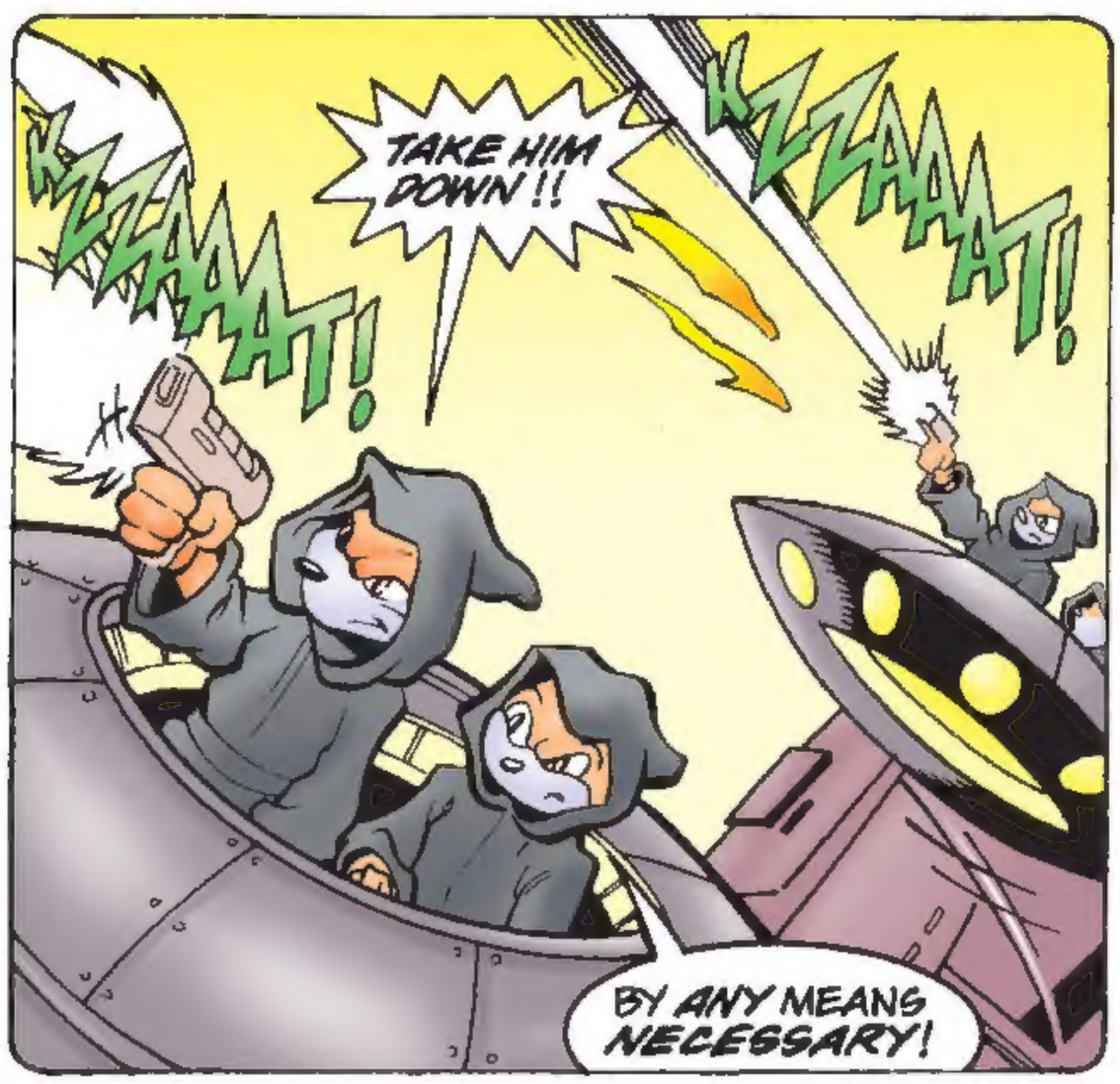
--BUT IT JUST KEEPS PILING UP!
THEY'RE CRAWLING OUT OF THE WOODWORK, KNUX!
WE NEED A PLAN, FEARLESS LEADER!

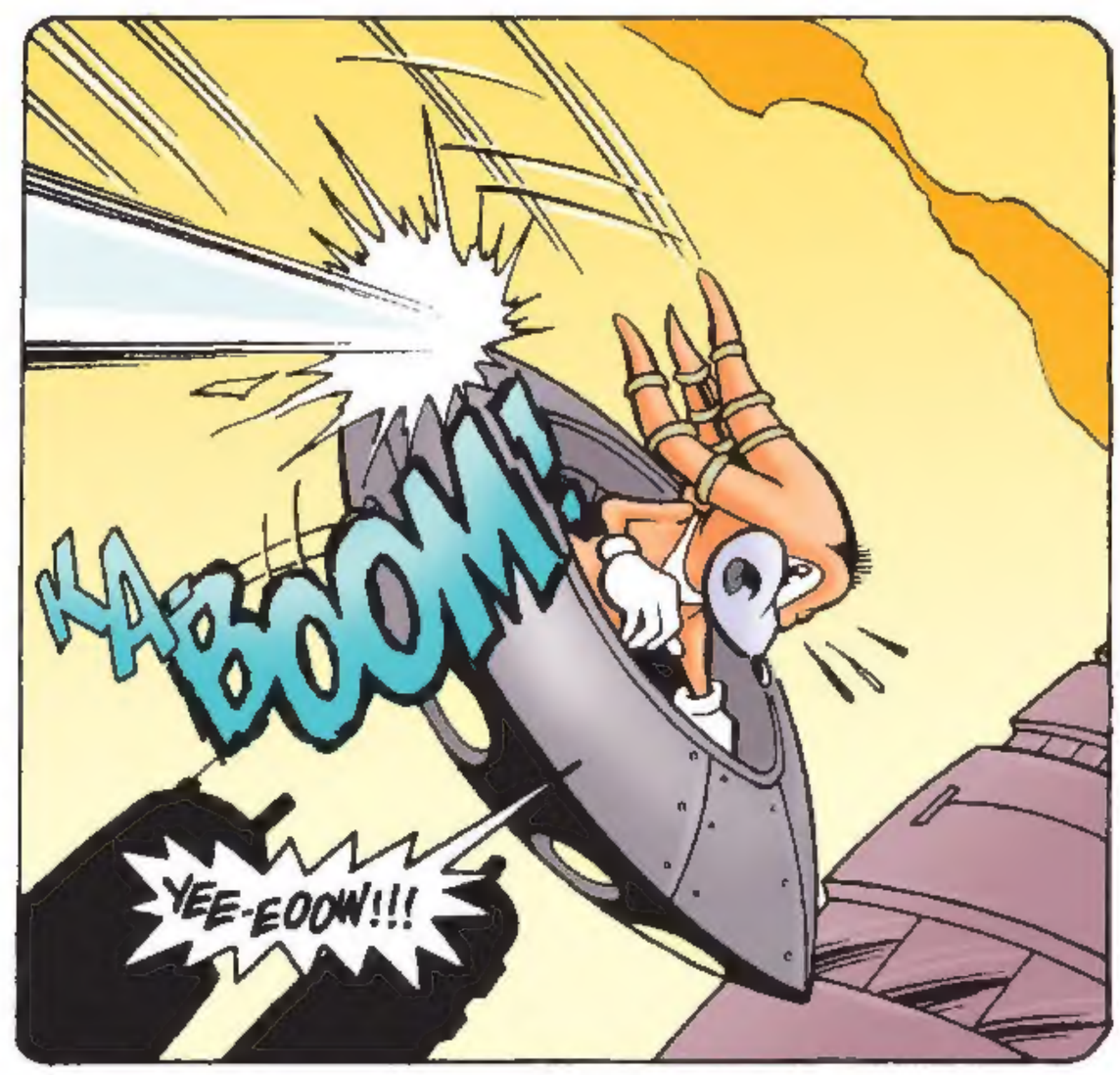
EVERYBODY-- DUE NORTH!
WE NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO REGROUP.

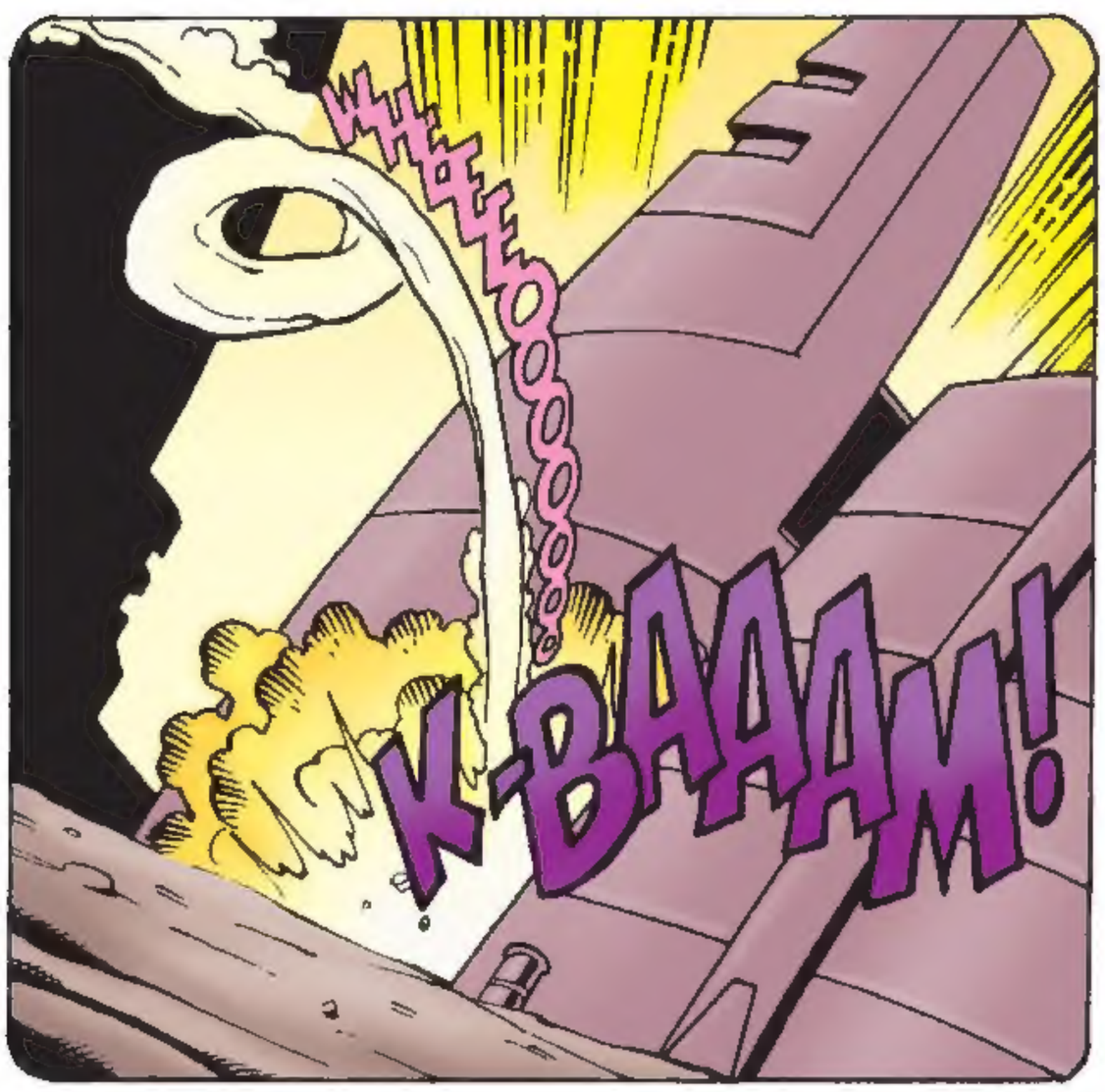

"THEY MAY HAVE STRENGTH IN NUMBERS, BUT WE KNOW THE TERRAIN!"

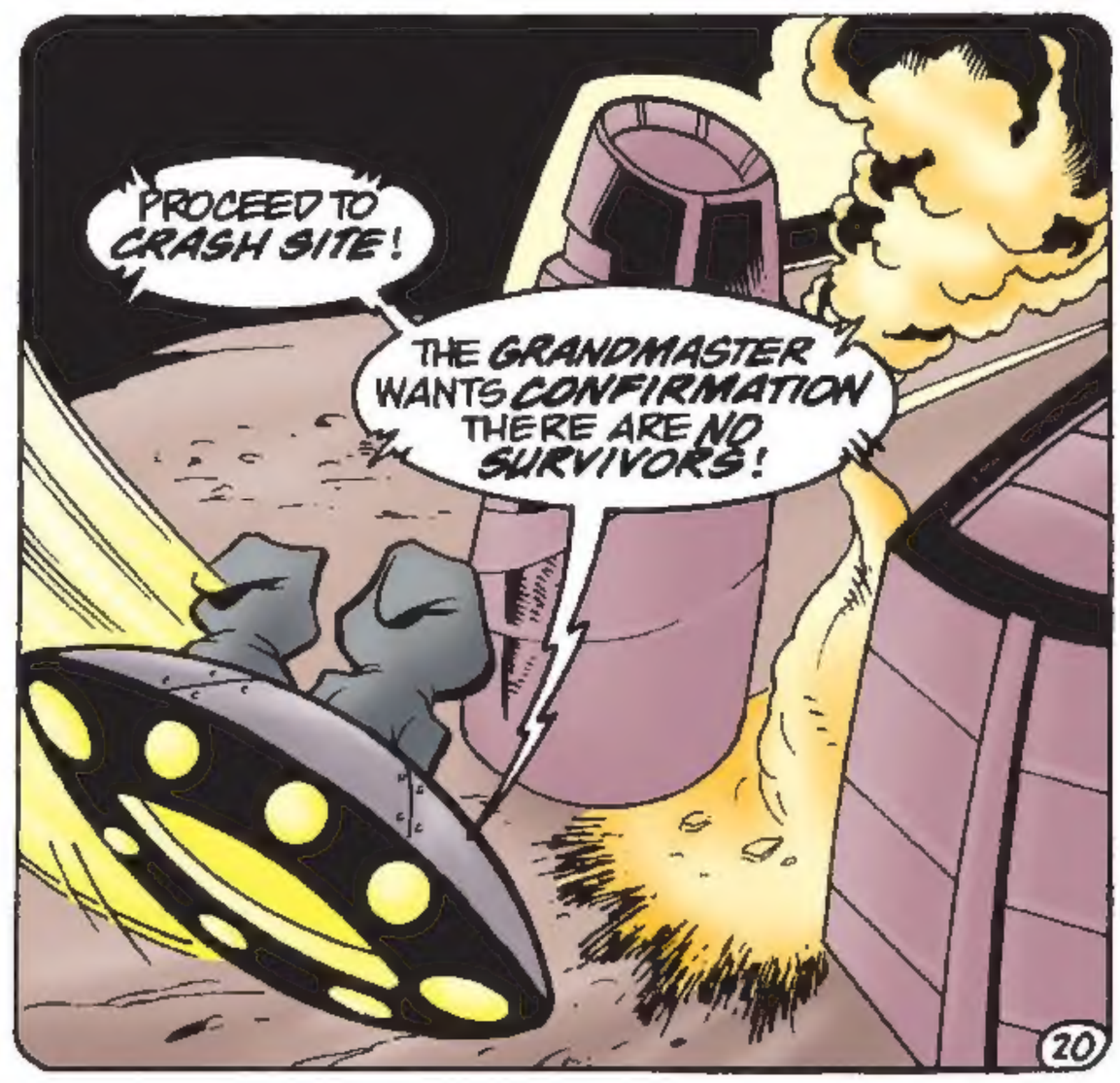

FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, I ALWAYS SAY!
IF THEY'RE GOING TO LEAVE THIS BABY LYING AROUND, I'LL MAKE USE OF IT!


OF COURSE, DAD WOULD DISAGREE--
WHOA! BETTER PAY ATTENTION!
BOGEYS IN PURSUIT!!


KZZAAAAT!
TAKE HIM DOWN!!
KZZAAAAT!
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!

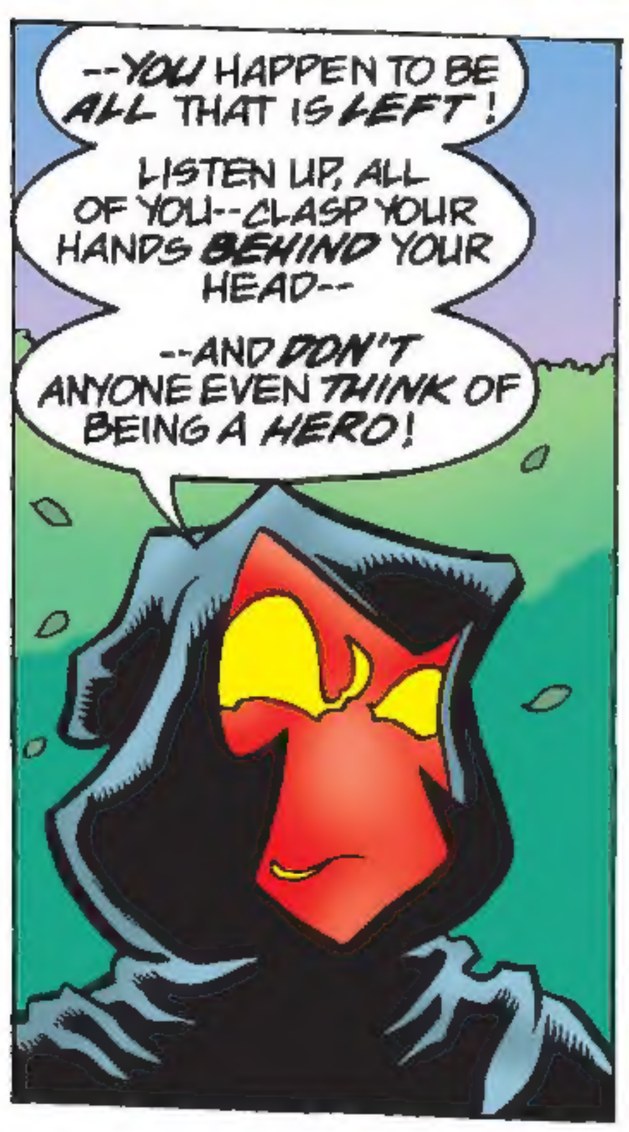

KA-BOOM!
YEE-EOOW!!!

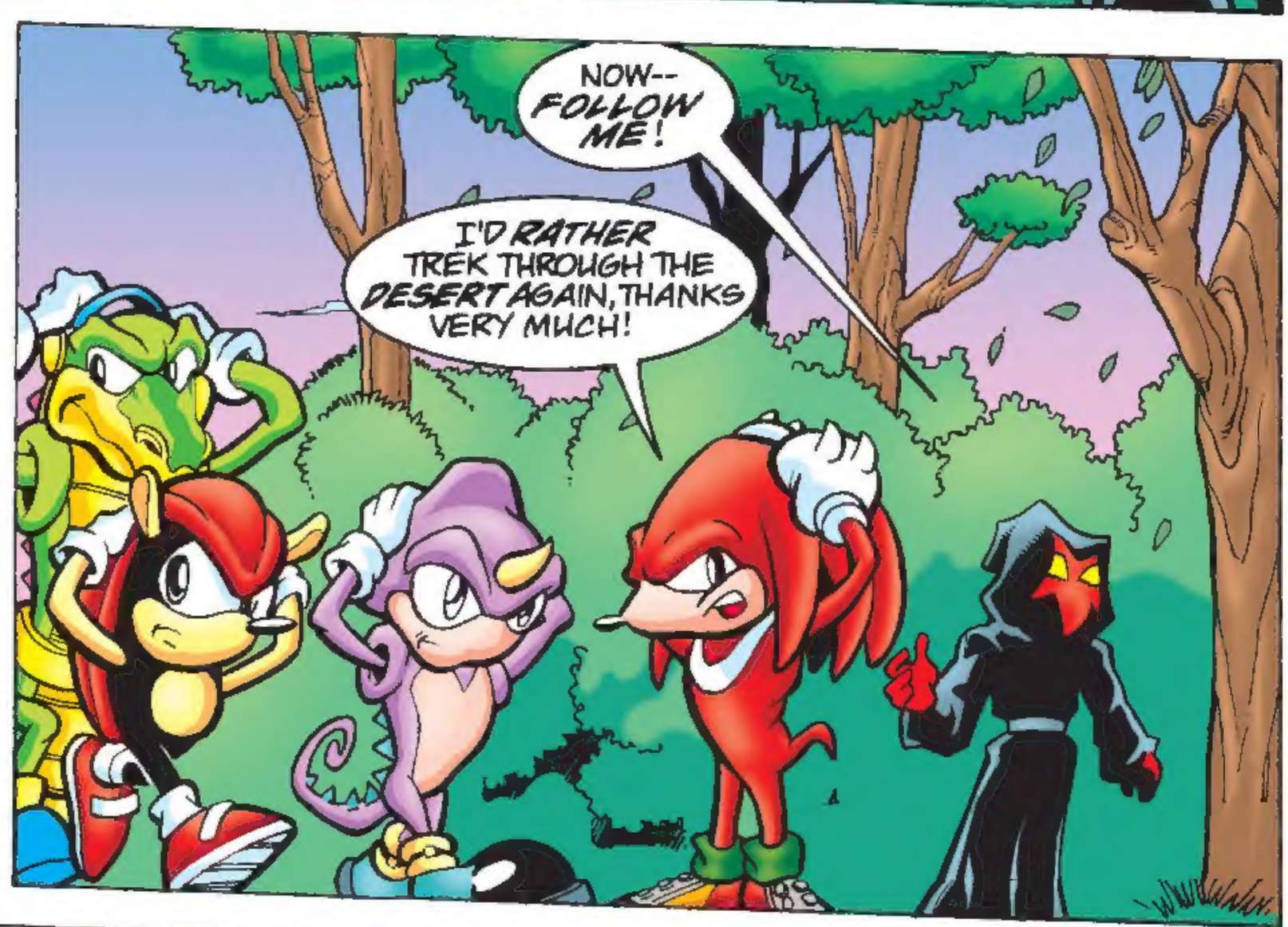

WHEEEOOO
K-BAAAM!


PROCEED TO CRASH SITE!
THE GRANDMASTER WANTS CONFIRMATION THERE ARE NO SURVIVORS!

SAY, KNUX--
YOU SURE WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW HOW TO HIP-HOP AROUND HERE?

STAY COOL, GUYS!
IF ONLY YOUR ANCESTORS WERE AS WISE.
HOWEVER--


--YOU HAPPEN TO BE ALL THAT IS LEFT!
LISTEN UP, ALL OF YOU--CLASP YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD--
--AND DON'T ANYONE EVEN THINK OF BEING A HERO!


NOW--FOLLOW ME!
I'D RATHER TREK THROUGH THE DESERT AGAIN, THANKS VERY MUCH!

I'D RECONSIDER IF I WERE YOU--
AFTER ALL, WE HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU THINK!
HUH?!

I AM KRAGOK!
JOIN ME-- AND TOGETHER WE CAN RECLAIM OUR BIRTHRIGHT.
OPPOSE ME-- AND YOU CAN CALL ME YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE!
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?
TO BE CONTINUED...

MAP OF THE Floating Island

Cave where Knuckles held Sonic and Tails prisoner

Zoot Chute

Launch Base

Chaos Chamber (underground)

Site where Sonic and Tails crash landed (issue #13)

Access to Grand Conservatory

Mount Fate

Mushroom Hill

Lava Reef Zone

Marble Garden

(Echidna Ruins)

Forbidden Zone

Ruins ("Fire Drill")

Hydro City

Hidden Oasis

Hidden Palace Zone

Happyland Amusement Park (Carnival Zone)

Sandopolis Zone (Mostly Unexplored)

Angel Zone

Sky Sanctuary Zone

Former Site of Echidnapolis

Ice Cap Zone

Lake Nessie

You are here along with Knuckles and Archimedes (find out what they do to get home in the next issue)

Lands End

1. Swampy Swamp (Vector's Home)
2. Strawberry Fields (Charmy's Hive)
3. Rainbow Valley (Espio's Home)
4. Rocky Hill (Mighty's Home)
5. Nack's Nook
6. Renfield T. Rodent's Rathole
7. Knuckles' Lair
8. Fire-Ant Hill (Archimedes's Domicile)

Note: Unmarked territories are zones yet to be explored in either future adventures or Sega Game cartridges.

Flying Battery Zone, Death Egg Zone and Doomsday Zone do not appear; they occur off island.

Scale 1" - 10 mi

0" 1"